

# EPFMA BULLETIN



European Parliament Former Members Association

[www.formermembers.eu](http://www.formermembers.eu)



## Cultural Heritage



### FMA Activities

EP to Campus  
Programme

Page 22



### FMA Activities

Co-operation with  
the EUI

Page 28

# IN THIS ISSUE

**03** Message from the President

**04** EP at work

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

**05** 1948: Start of the European Constitutional Cycle (*Andrea Manzella*)

**06** Democratic conventions' (*Nicole Fontaine*)

**07** United in diversity (*Jean-Marie Beaupuy*)

**08** The point of view of a Former Member (*Ursula Braun-Moser*)

**09** Every five minutes... (*Karin Junker*)

**10** AMAR Programme (*Emma Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne*)

**11** Observation mission in Catalonia (*Jan Dhaene*)

**12** The French Federation of Houses of Europe (*Martine Buron*)

## FOCUS

**14** European culture viewed through the ages (*Pedro Canavarro*)

**15** The economic value of cultural heritage (*Manuel Porto*)

**16** The humble rural architecture of Greece (*Nikolaos Sifounakis*)

**17** Unesco (*Brigitte Langenhagen*)

**18** Cultural property in the event of armed conflict (*Monica Baldi*)

**19** Lux Film Prize (*Doris Pack*)

## FMA ACTIVITIES

**21** Democracy Support

**22** EP to Campus Programme

**28** Co-operation with the EUI

**30** FMA Annual Seminar

## LATEST NEWS

**31** New members

**32** Activities

**33** In memoriam



A ceremony took place on 24 January 2018 at the European Parliament to mark the upcoming International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January in memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

Cover: ©iStock

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:

The Editorial Board would like to thank all those members who took the time to contribute to this issue of the FMA Bulletin. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the decision to include an article lies with the FMA Editorial Board and, in principle, contributions from members who are not up-to-date with the payment of the membership fee will not be included. Due to the long time lag between the call for contribution and the publication, some articles may be outdated. The FMA Bulletin is published by the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA) with the assistance of the European Parliament. However, the views expressed in articles represent the views of contributing FMA members or guest writers and do not necessarily represent the views of either the European Parliament nor the FMA. Similarly, any advertisement does not imply an official endorsement by the FMA or Parliament.

## EDITORIAL BOARD

Brigitte LANGENHAGEN  
Andrea MANZELLA  
Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT  
Manuel PORTO  
Teresa RIERA MADURELL

## PREPARED BY

Elisabetta FONCK  
Liseth BRAVO  
Valeh NASIRI

## CONTACTS

formermembers@europarl.europa.eu  
Tel.+ 32(0)2 284 07 03  
Fax.+32(0)2 284 09 89



# Message from the PRESIDENT

Dear colleagues,

European Union legislators have chosen 2018 as the European Year of Cultural Heritage.

Throughout this year, the aim will be to highlight the challenges facing the sector, such as the lack of funding or the illegal trafficking of archaeological remains; a further aim will be to leverage the economic potential of this sector, which is directly responsible for the creation of about 7.8 million jobs. Our colleagues and experts who have contributed to this issue have stressed the rich heritage which we enjoy and the importance of maintaining and taking care of our cultural heritage. In this issue you will find a series of different articles on the subject.

In the 'Current Affairs' section you will find articles on a variety of fascinating subjects, courtesy of our former colleagues. I should like to thank the colleagues involved in producing this bulletin, making it possible for our association to serve as a forum for ideas and the exchange of views, and I should equally like to encourage all those who have not yet participated to do so in future. This issue also includes a section devoted to the activities of the FMA.

- The 'EP to Campus' programme under the responsibility of Lord Balfe continues to go from strength to strength. This programme allows Universities to benefit from the experience and expertise of former Members

of Parliament and is one of our most high-profile programmes.

The feedback from students, universities and colleagues who have participated is always positive. Students are able to benefit from constructive dialogues and exchanges of views which allow them to develop their own opinions on European issues.

- Another of our flagship programmes, under the responsibility of Monica Baldi, is the co-operation with the European University Institute in Florence. The programme involving secondary students was much appreciated by all the colleagues who participated and by the pupils who had the opportunity to learn about the workings of European institutions and about topical issues such as Brexit, migration and the rise of nationalism in Europe.

- The FMA annual events held on 29-30 November were extremely successful and in this issue one of the students who participated in the FMA Annual Seminar tells of her impressions of the seminar which was graced with the participation of Sir Julian King, European Commissioner, Michael Gahler MEP and Ivailo Kalfin, former MEP and member of the association.

As far as forthcoming events are concerned, our General Assembly will take place on 3 May and will be preceded by the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) Information Seminar, Annual Memorial Service and Dinner Debate with the presence of Mr.

Roberto Gualtieri MEP, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on 2 May. We will commemorate current and former MEPs who passed away in 2017 and 2018. Hans-Gert Pöttering, former President of the European Parliament, will hold the closing address.

The next FMA visit – on 4 and 5 June – will be to Bulgaria, the country holding the Presidency during the first half of 2018. Registration is now open – please contact the FMA secretariat for further information.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our annual assembly in May.

Enrique BARÓN CRESPO  
FMA President

# EP AT WORK

## KEY FACTS

### **EP adopt new EU rules on who bears banks' losses (November Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2018)0025)**

MEPs decided in favour of clear rules on the order in which troubled banks' creditors are liable to cover losses. The rules require banks to set aside enough funds to absorb losses and recapitalise.

### **MEPs approved a report on combating sexual abuse of children. (December Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2017)0501).**

EU member states must work more closely with each other and with Europol and the IT industry to fight sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

### **MEPs voted in favour of a resolution on the state of human rights worldwide in 2016. (December Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2017)0494).**

EU must act to halt persecution based on religion and protect migrants.

### **A special committee to look into the EU's authorisation procedure for pesticides will be set up. (February Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2018)0022).**

The special committee is a response to concerns raised about the risk posed by the herbicide substance glyphosate.

### **Parliament votes to end barriers to cross-border online shopping. (February Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2018)0023)**

Online buyers will have wider and easier cross-border access to products, hotel bookings, car rentals, music festivals or leisure park tickets in the EU.

### **Size of Parliament to shrink after Brexit. (February Session - P8\_TA-PROV(2018)0029)**

The European Parliament should shrink from 751 to 705 MEPs when and if the UK leaves the EU. Some or all of the 46 seats in the reserve could possibly be reallocated to new countries joining the EU.

*Other main dossiers discussed in the plenary sessions were:*

#### **December 2017**

- MEPs endorsed the mandate to start talks with EU governments on **new rules for online TV and radio**. (12.12.17)
- MEPs prolong and expand the **European Fund for Strategic Investment** up to €500 billion. (12.12.17)
- MEPs advocate stronger **EU foreign and defence policy**. (13.12.17)
- **More transparency on EU decision-making**: A new online register will make it easier to find and track EU decisions taken in the form of delegated acts. (13.12.17)
- MEPs back recommendations of **special inquiry into tax crimes**: Open registers of beneficial owners, effective whistle-blower protection and rules for intermediaries. (13.12.17)

#### **January 2018**

- MEPs adopted **new fisheries rule**, a ban on electric pulse fishing was added. (16.01.18)
- MEPs acknowledged that progress has been made in **Brexit negotiations**, but cautioned the UK government not to take a Brexit transition deal for granted, and highlighted the need to formalise the withdrawal agreement. (16.01.18)
- MEPs said that **EU export controls** should be extended to cyber-surveillance tools to avoid human rights violations. (17.01.18)
- MEPs set ambitious **targets for cleaner, more efficient energy use**. (17.01.18)
- MEPs endorsed Irish Tony James Murphy and Swedish Eva Lindström candidates for the **European Court of Auditors**. (17.01.18)
- MEPs put children at the forefront

of their concerns when adopting their proposals to change **EU laws on resolving international divorce disputes**. (18.01.18)

#### **February 2018**

- **Climate**: MEPs pass law to cut CO2 emissions and fund **low-carbon innovation**. (06.02.18)
- MEPs adopt Commission **blacklist of countries at risk of money laundering**. (07.02.18)
- MEPs approved proposed changes to the **Framework Agreement on relations between the EP and the EC**. Serving EU Commissioners may run as "lead candidates" or run for election to the EP ahead of EU elections. (07.02.18)
- MEPs call on **Turkey** to lift state of emergency (08.02.18)

*For more information, please visit : <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/plenary>*



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 1948: START OF THE EUROPEAN CONSTITUTIONAL CYCLE

70 years ago, on 1 January 1948, the Italian Constitution marked the beginning of the cycle of democratic constitutions that were to come into being, one after the other, after the Second World War in Europe. In 1949 came the German Constitution, followed – in the fast-paced chapter of peace on our continent that began afterwards– by the new constitutions of all the states that currently make up the Union.

That European constitutional cycle immediately took the shape of a break with the past consisting of preventing any government, using the instrument of law, from being able to repeat, in any form, that near past of wars, dictatorships and attacks against the individual. The will to introduce that legal instrument was expressed in a variety of ways and was based on the national traditions of each state, but each constitution went on to establish, in its own different way, three primacies:

First and foremost there was the primacy of dignity over every other aspect in the sphere of the individual and which represented the 'never again' to Soviet gulags

and Nazi concentration camps and also to racism and anti-Semitism, homophobia and discrimination against women.

The second primacy was that of the constitution, over any other law. Constitutions were to act as barriers against arbitrary measures and abuses of power by governing parliamentary majorities in the name of the perpetuity of values on which, at the constituent stage, there was a national consensus.

Last but not least, there was the primacy of supranational law over individual national legal systems. Therefore, since 1948, for the first time in the world, national constitutions have allowed limitations on national powers and transfers of state sovereignty so as to enable a supranational order to be established. This was to be the common constitutional order in the European Union, where those three primacies, as transposed into each 'new' constitution, would receive common recognition.

The European legal order would thus be seen not as something foreign or as an addition to national constitutions, but as a manifestation of the combination of things that united them.

We thus have the Charter of Fundamental rights of the European Union that opens with the simple and solemn formula: 'Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected and protected'. Nothing more than that, but everyone understands what it means.

And thus we have the primacy of constitutional values established in Article 2 of the Treaty as values that are 'common to the Member States'

in a society in which respect for the rule of law and pluralism prevail.

The primacy of European law is also recognised and supported by the dialogue of national constitutional courts with the European Court of Justice. Although restricted to matters that are of EU competence, its symbolic significance as a bulwark against any form of legal or statutory absolutism is huge.

These are primacies which, although declared 70 years ago, are constantly being undermined by threats and open violations.

The value of dignity is being challenged by new forms of slavery, trafficking in human beings and the situation of stateless migrants, both at our gates and internally.

The value of the constitution is being challenged by hostilities towards the curbs placed – by the courts of law and the independence of the judiciary – on governments abusing their powers.

The value of European law is being challenged by 'legal nationalisms' that are looking to denature the reciprocity of each country's rights and duties in respect of the EU.

It is therefore fair to say that the European constitutional cycle that began in 1948 has not really been completed. There is much to be done every day, and many mistakes to be counteracted, in order to ensure that our very European Union can continue to survive with its global identity and those three primacies intact.

**Andrea Manzella**  
PES, Italy (1994-1999)  
an.manzella@gmail.com



## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS

**Europe: half-hearted reforms will no longer do.**

The 'democratic conventions' that will be held in 2018, proposed by President Macron as part of his plan to relaunch the European project, are by no means ground-breaking. To think otherwise would be to ignore the many thousands of diverse democratic initiatives that for more than 60 years have pushed forward the debate on how best to achieve peace and solidarity in Europe. What is new this time is that, by reaching out beyond the politically engaged community and mobilising as many European citizens as possible, these proposals have the potential to spur on Europe's leaders to take actions that meet the challenge posed by the dangerous disillusionment felt by a growing number of people towards the EU. We are confronted by a lingering scepticism towards European integration, the risk of the Brexit phenomenon spreading to other countries, a continuing 30-year slump in the turnout for European elections, the rise of populist movements thriving on fear

and narrow self-interest, Islamic terrorism, Europe's inability to offer a coordinated response to the unstoppable flow of migrants forced to endure unspeakable conditions while fleeing misery, war and dictatorships, and mass unemployment condemning millions of young people to the margins of society. In the face of these challenges, half-hearted EU reforms just will not do.

**'We need to look ahead to a future in which solidarity, in the interest of Europe, is not only European but universal'**

In this age of uncertainty, we need to find a better balance between the two means of democratic expression: representative democracy and direct democracy. The latter can no longer be confined to the simple act of voting in elections and referendums, for there is no denying that social media have an important role to play, even if in their relentless stream of confusing, often anonymous information they present both the best and the worst of humanity. Some fear that these democratic conventions are not the best means of understanding the expectations of the European population as a whole, for three main reasons: those who feel most passionate about European issues are usually well-off, older and live in cities; generally, the people most likely to speak up in these kinds of discussions are those with strong or sometimes radical views; and due to the lack of face-to-face interaction, an online forum would only produce a fractured dialogue.

However, these risks do not outweigh the potential benefits; it is time to embrace these new communication technologies, for they are having as revolutionary an impact on society as the advent of the printing press had in its day. I personally believe that the most important thing - with a little resourcefulness from local politicians - is for these democratic conventions to include all citizens rather than focusing on the management of Europe. We have far bigger problems to deal with than that. We need to look ahead to a future in which solidarity, in the interest of Europe, is not only European but universal. Europe needs a new contract based on clear vision and a commitment to the common good. This is the only way to restore the European dream that the founders yearned for and made a reality after the war.

To achieve this and rally support for this new ideal from our entire continent, we need to place our faith first and foremost in the younger generation, who have not lost their enthusiasm for life, who know how to stand up for what is right, who believe in making the world a better place and who are capable of selfless acts.

**Nicole Fontaine**  
Former President of the  
European Parliament  
EPP-ED, France (1984-2009)  
nfontaine@aol.com



Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic ©European Union

## 'UNITED IN DIVERSITY'

### Using our motto as a new way of promoting democracy

The European flag can be found in many places across the EU, from the official buildings of its Member States and the signboards of construction sites that have received EU funding to the administrative documents produced by its institutions.

It is a symbol that has truly entered the collective memory of Europe's 500 million inhabitants.

Another symbol is Europe Day on 9 May, an occasion that is celebrated to varying degrees depending on the country and the year.

Our anthem 'Ode to Joy' is still only used on rare occasions.

And our motto 'United in Diversity' seems to have been forgotten altogether!

And yet:

- 'United in Diversity' is a principle



*Rainbow over the flags of the EU member states in front of LOW building in Strasbourg  
©European Union*

which has an analogy in the body of every sentient creature, including human beings, as our bodies can only function properly when all of our organs are working in harmony with one another.

- 'United in Diversity' is the basis for all human organisations to operate effectively, from orchestras and football teams to businesses and NGOs.

- 'United in Diversity' is the reality of politics at all levels: in our local parishes, districts, cities, regions, nations, and of course in Europe. The rise of narrow-minded, inward-looking attitudes and the refusal by many to engage in dialogue - at an individual level as much as for the planet as a whole - is turning 'diversity' into a weapon to undermine the unity that binds our societies together.

We are coming into the period leading up to the European elections in June 2019. There will be lively debates at every level, and different 'diversities' will often launch attacks on one another. Yet the interest of each one of us, the common interest, must surely lie in seeking harmony, not discord.

Against this backdrop, it is clear that our motto must be brought to the fore.

It was first introduced by Nicole Fontaine and the European Parliament on 4 May 2000, then later relaunched on 9 October 2008. I should like to see Parliament, the Commission, the Member States and all pro-European organisations print it alongside our flag on their documents.

Let next 9 May be the chance to show what a great asset the diversity of Europe's cultures is for each one of us and our common future. And, with the support of many other initiatives, may our motto become just as popular as our European flag is today.



**Jean-Marie Beaupuy**  
ALDE, France (2004-2009)  
[jeanmariebeaupuy.europe@sfr.fr](mailto:jeanmariebeaupuy.europe@sfr.fr)



## THE POINT OF VIEW OF A FORMER MEMBER

Since I know that the President is supposed to act as an arbiter between the different mentalities, I hope that the new President of the EP may have an influence to help achieve a consensus on European affairs.

Former Members like me took on responsibility for bringing the enlargement of the European Union to fruition in the 90s. For example, as a member of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Poland, I met with Polish dissidents and Walesa as long ago as the 80s.

We also organised the first meetings of trade associations in Budapest back in the 80s and hoped for a liberation of the people from decades of oppression by the Soviet system, inter alia through a Europe without borders.

For me, as a German well acquainted with the situation of my compatriots and relatives in East Germany, it was clear that it would take decades until we came to speak the same language and have the same conception of the world around us, of our historical context.

Even now, many Europeans have

widely differing ideas about democracy.

Those of us who were politically active on behalf of the European Union now fear that our achievements may be short-lived. I myself devoted all of my efforts after leaving the European Parliament to the development of the economy and academia in Poland and Hungary.

**“Brexit should have been a wake-up call – after all, we older Europeans do not want to trigger any other exits.”**

Having obtained a Polish post-doctoral qualification to lecture and a chair at the University of Szczecin, I participated in the development of the Faculty of Economics, focusing on information technology in business.

At the same time, I lectured for 12 years on ‘Hungary as an example of European Economic Integration’, and acted as an examiner under the Monnet Programme at the Etvös-Loránd-University in Budapest.

There I encountered many ERASMUS

students in whom I was able to instil an enthusiasm for the European Union which lasts to this day. Those students placed a great deal of hope in their countries’ membership of the EU.

How can it be that the intransigence of the EU-bureaucracy and its failure to understand the history and traditions of the new Member States should have generated so much mutual antagonism?

Brexit should have been a wake-up call – after all, we older Europeans do not want to trigger any other exits. Having suffered under foreign rule and oppression, countries such as Poland and Hungary have had to wait 80 years to build their nation states.

They are therefore more attached to their national autonomy and sovereignty than, say the Luxembourgers who, much like the Germans, are willing to cede many powers to Brussels.

Can the European Parliament, not use its authority to act as a more effective counterweight to the Commission?



**Ursula Braun-Moser**  
EPP, Germany (1984-1994)  
braunmoser@aol.com

Meeting in the European Parliament in 1986 ©European Parliament



## EVERY FIVE MINUTES...

### Every five minutes a girl dies as a result of violence

The 2017 World Population Report has again corroborated something that we have long known, but that can hardly be said to determine our development agenda: poor girls have three times as many children as rich ones. This applies above all to the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. According to the United Nations, 43 percent of all pregnancies are unplanned. The German Foundation for World Population expects a further increase and also an increase in abortions as a result of the reduction - instigated by US President Trump - of funds for international organisations that also provide information on abortions in the context of family planning. The probable effect of these cuts will be not to reduce, but rather to increase the number of abortions, because girls and women will have less access to advice on family planning and contraceptive methods. It is now up to the EU and its Member States to match their vocal support for Africa by taking action to close this gap and making further family planning efforts.

It is in its mutual interests of both parties to monitor population growth, especially in Africa: it is also our joint humanitarian responsibility. It should be recalled that the UN has set 17 'Sustainable Development Goals' to be achieved by 2030: defeating poverty and hunger, providing good health and quality education and achieving gender equality. Whether these goals can be achieved will depend very much on what assistance is given especially to girls, who still suffer multiple disadvantages. In order to raise public awareness worldwide about their plight, in 2012 the UN designated the first International Day of the Girl Child.

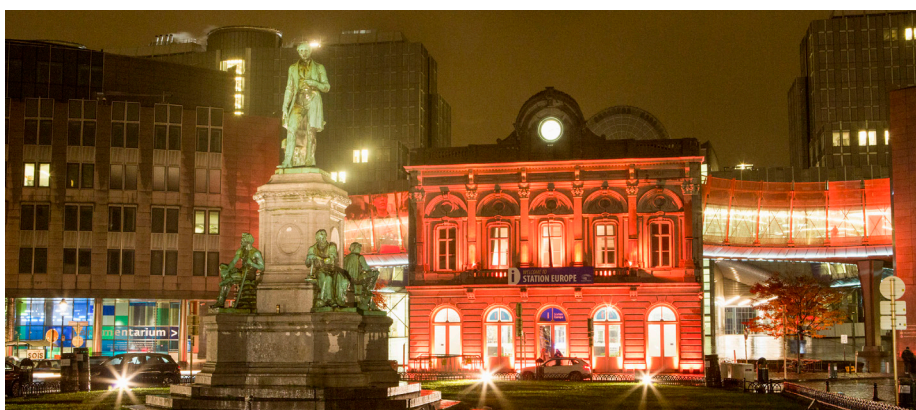
On the International Day of the Girl Child in 2017, there were around 1.1 billion young women and girls under the age of 18, many in emergency and crisis situations, threatened by violence and sexual exploitation and with no chance of an adequate education. According to Unicef, every five minutes a girl dies as a result of violence. Worldwide, 120 million girls and young women have experienced sexual violence in their lives. Where is the #MeToo

and Time's Up campaign for the world's girls?

Over fifty percent of girls still live in Asia, but the trend is downwards. In Africa, however, the proportion of girls will probably be one-third higher in five years' time.

Life expectancy is steadily rising, and girls born in 2015 currently have an average life expectancy of 74.1 years. Girls live longest in Hong Kong (87.3 years). They have the lowest life expectancy in Sierra Leone (52 years). This, too, must be a wake-up call to Europe to make a major contribution to improving living conditions in Africa. This is especially true of access to education. In Africa, twice as many boys as girls attend at least primary school, and boys are 83 percent more likely than girls to reach upper secondary education. In other words, there are currently some 130 million girls worldwide who are unable to attend school.

And when Africa's poor girls are able to go to school, they often stay at home for several days every month, because they cannot afford sanitary towels when they have their periods. Governments have already made promises during election campaigns to supply them with sanitary towels, but these promises have invariably been broken; in Uganda, an activist who had criticised this failure was even sent to jail. Some pupils now make their own, as best they can. Surely the EU can step in here!



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women:- 'Orange your world', UN campaign to end violence against women and girls ©European Union

**Karin Junker**  
PES, Germany (1989-2004)  
karin.junker@t-online.de

## AMAR PROGRAMME

Sajjad and Marwa were obviously in love. Sitting close together on the sofa in the AMAR International office in Basra, Iraq, Marwa could not stop talking about how happy she was, and Sajjad just gazed, adoringly, into his new wife's eyes.

Just like millions of other couples around the world, they were both enjoying those first few precious months of married life.

Things could have been very different though for this young couple. From the moment they first met they already knew they had a big problem. Sajjad was a Shiite, and Marwa, a Sunni.

So this would have been a relationship that would normally have been doomed to failure. The schism between the two Muslim sects dates back 1400 years following the death of the Prophet Mohammed. They still share many fundamental beliefs and practices but there are many differences which have led to countless deaths and much misery for both peoples over the centuries since then.

Sajjad and Marwa were forced to keep their love for one another secret, even from their closest relatives. Fear stalked their relationship.

Thankfully, they approached AMAR and asked for help. They came to us because we have been running a unique programme to teach religious tolerance to thousands of people in the south of Iraq.

It was thanks to a one million Euro grant from the European Union, through the European Instrument for Human Rights and Democracy, that AMAR was able to expand the CRD (Combatting Religious

Discrimination) programme across Iraq.

Its aim was to tackle all forms of discrimination on the grounds of religious belief - or indeed non-belief - in order to reduce ongoing social, economic and political division and conflict. All religions were included in the programme.

Iraq is a multi-ethnic country. They are a nation not just of Muslims but of Christians, Yazidis, Chaldeans and Mandaens too.

Having worked in this troubled region since 1991, always with an entirely indigenous workforce, AMAR was acutely aware of the need for CRD. Our staff in Iraq have had first-hand personal experience of the problems that are caused by religious intolerance and are conscious of the desperate need to address the root causes.

The specific objective was to reduce sectarian conflict, violence and the potential of violence between differing religious communities in Southern Iraq and to ensure equitable and fair access to social, economic and political life for religious minorities.

AMAR worked closely with local university professors to develop a curriculum on religious tolerance, human rights and gender equality which was then taught to civil society organisations (CSOs), religious and community leaders, teachers and university professors in Basra, Maysan and Thi Qar in Southern Iraq.

These CSOs and religious leaders then taught the curriculum's message of tolerance throughout their communities through different activities and lectures. This inherently

*Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne launched AMAR Foundation in 1991. They work across Iraq and Lebanon, ensuring that vulnerable families have access to healthcare, educational services and emergency aid. [www.amarfoundation.org](http://www.amarfoundation.org)*

sustainable approach guaranteed that skills were maintained by Iraqi activists, CSO members, teachers and professors who could then continue to spread the message of tolerance throughout their careers. Over the course of the three-year programme, our staff taught more than 10,800 people. Ten CSOs were also fully trained, as well as 36 religious and community leaders, representing all the faiths in Iraq. Thanks to this ground-breaking scheme, we were able to offer help to Sajjad and Marwa. We contacted their community leaders, both of whom had trained on the AMAR scheme. Initially, both families were against the relationship, but the leaders used all their new knowledge to persuade them to allow this to happen and now they are married. It's was a small breakthrough of course. Centuries of animosity is not going to be solved overnight. But at least we took the initiative and we are now desperately seeking more funding to continue our CRD programme and expand it across Iraq.

**Emma Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne**  
Chair of AMAR Foundation  
ALDE, United Kingdom  
(1999-2009)  
[nicholsone@parliament.uk](mailto:nicholsone@parliament.uk)

## OBSERVATION MISSION IN CATALONIA

The European Free Alliance (EFA) Group in the European Parliament decided at the last moment to send a group of observers to these important elections. The elections were very important not only for the future of Catalonia but also for the Spanish Government led by Rajoy and for Europe.

What preceded them, in a nutshell, was this: on 1 October, after several vain calls for dialogue in order to obtain a better autonomous status, the parties which backed independence called a referendum in Catalonia. Madrid considered the referendum to be illegal and sent the Guardia Civil, the Spanish police, to intervene. The police did so, making a great display of force and using a good deal of violence: the pictures were seen around the globe. Ballot boxes were seized in order to sabotage the referendum. Even so, many people voted, and on the basis of the result of the referendum the parties proclaimed an independent Catalan republic on 27 October in the Catalan Parliament. They sought to remain members of the EU, but the European Commission did not respond...

Although the Catalans had expressly sought dialogue, Madrid invoked Article 155 of the Constitution to punish the region, dissolve the

Catalan Parliament and call new elections to it: Prime Minister Puigdemont fled to Belgium with part of his government. The members of the Catalan Government who remained in Spain were imprisoned. Europe continued to take the attitude that the law had to be obeyed (the referendum was unconstitutional).

The Spanish Government had not invited any international observers: this was a further reason why we should not hesitate to go and have a look, and to support democracy. We went with a delegation of MEPs, former MEPs and representatives from Flanders, Scotland, Corsica, South Tirol, Northern Ireland, Yorkshire, Galicia, Wales and the Basque Country and of course also with Catalans.

On the evening of Tuesday, 19 December we attended the closing event organised by the ERC (left-wing nationalists), whose leader, former Deputy Prime Minister Oriol Junqueras, is still in prison.

Wednesday was a day of reflection and briefings, including with the ANC party, whose leader Jordi Sanchez was also in prison, as was Jordi Cuixart, president of Òmnium Cultural.

On Thursday, the election itself duly took place: we visited 20 polling

stations (in two groups) in ten sociologically different districts of Barcelona. Everywhere there was a huge turnout – more than 80 percent: in terms of democratic participation it set a real example for the rest of Europe.

People queued in a disciplined manner for the opportunity, once inside the polling station, to take an envelope within which they could indicate their preferred party list, before identifying themselves by means of their passports: their names were both noted and crossed off a copy of the electoral roll. There were observers from all the parties that were participating in the election.

At 20.00, the polling stations closed, and the votes cast at each of them were counted on the spot.

In the evening, we were then able to see the results, which made it clear that the parties seeking independence had once again secured a majority. Decision-makers in Madrid must now accept that negotiation is the only way to break the stalemate. The European Commission too can no longer ignore the fact that a political solution will have to be found. Europe must not abandon the Catalans, nor must it allow the violation of democratic values to continue: pressure must be brought to bear for the political prisoners to be released and for the elected representatives to be allowed to take their seats in the new Catalan Parliament.

**Jan Dhaene**

Greens/EFA, Belgium (2002-2004)  
jandhaene@telenet.be



Group of observers in Catalonia



## THE FRENCH FEDERATION OF HOUSES OF EUROPE

The French Federation of Houses of Europe is an association set up in 1961 by six founding Houses. It is independent of political parties and of national and EU institutions.

In 2018, there are 34 Houses of Europe throughout France. Together, the Houses of Europe and their Federation aim to help build a united Europe based on peace, sustainable and inclusive development and democracy by promoting active European citizenship for all sections of society.

The Federation's principal task is to support and coordinate the actions of the various member Houses around unifying projects, to defend their interests in dealings with the authorities and to establish partnerships with other European networks of associations.

Most of our Houses belong to the European Network for Education and Training (EUNET), which has 70 members in 22 countries.

The Houses of Europe are associations which emerged from a citizens' movement in the late 1940s.

Historically, rather like the twinning relationships created between French and German municipalities, their aim was to facilitate reconciliation after the Second World War. Today, they

are intended to be places of education about Europe, where information is provided and debates are held on the realities of Europe – whether it be the Europe of the Council of Europe or of the European Union – as well as on EU institutions and policies. Fifteen of our Houses are 'Europe Direct information centres', providing a liaison between the European institutions and citizens. Each of our Houses, from Brest to Strasbourg and from Dunkirk to Montpellier, is an association born of the commitment of European civil society actors, elected representatives and ordinary citizens. Together, they have around 4 000 members. Their members may be individuals or legal entities: local authorities, universities, schools, trade unions, companies, cultural, educational or sports associations, twinning committees, etc.

**'The Houses of Europe and their Federation aim to help build a united Europe based on peace, sustainable and inclusive development and democracy by promoting active European citizenship for all sections of society.'**

The House of Europe teams – employees and volunteers – work with young people in schools and in informal education activities. The aim of these activities is to bring home to young people the reality of Europe and its geographical and cultural diversity, for example through stories and legends, the origin of languages or Europe's monuments. But they

can also relate to the founding values of the European Union and the functioning of its institutions. Mobility workshops are organised to present the mobility opportunities in Europe through the Erasmus+ programme (studies, European voluntary service). The Houses, together with their many partners, organise debates on topics relating to European current affairs, and contribute everywhere to the success of the Europe Week commemorations in May.

All this work is particularly necessary in the current climate, when all too often Europe serves as a scapegoat for populists. The Houses of Europe will engage fully in the public consultations launched by President Macron ahead of the elections to the European Parliament in 2019. Only the clear-sighted commitment of large numbers of citizens can provide Europe with the cohesion and strength it needs to face the challenges of globalisation while respecting its values.

The Houses of Europe stand ready to contribute.

For the past few years our Federation has been presided over by Catherine Lalumière, a great European and former Vice-President of the European Parliament. It is an honour and a pleasure for me to take over this responsibility from her.



Logo ©Fédération Française des Maisons de l'Europe

**Martine Buron**

PES, France (1988-1994)

[martineburon@wanadoo.fr](mailto:martineburon@wanadoo.fr)



# FOCUS



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

# FOCUS

## EUROPEAN CULTURE VIEWED THROUGH THE AGES

European culture, to my mind, is first and foremost a way of life!

Whereas some interpretations, divorced from context, confine themselves to a simplistically negative perspective, looking, for instance, at the Crusades, the extermination of indigenous peoples, slavery, and colonialism, others see Europe as light, there to guide those seeking to bring greater quality of life both to their situation and to their being, in terms of values.

### **‘European culture is a symbiosis of secular and religious thought’**

Europe, as we all know, is one of the smallest continents in the world in which we live. Its eastern boundaries are difficult to determine, since its northern, southern, or western boundaries are stretched forward as soon as Europeans move, act, and make their mark on the many and varied eras in human history. Beyond anything that it might be able to impart, or even ‘impose’, to be European means essentially to be set apart from what others see and the standpoints from which they view it.

European culture finds expression in interplay between opposites,

introspection and extroversion. Since the days of Greek culture it has been calling itself into question, refusing to be satisfied with simple answers unless these raised implicit new questions. It set out from the agora on its Peripatetic wanderings and carried that way of living through the Aegean Sea as far as the vast Mediterranean, the Mare Nostrum of Roman civilisation, which extended the frontiers of the Europe of that time, northwards and eastwards, but in so doing overreached itself and thus brought about the decline of its empire. Once Judaeo-Christian ideology, which had come from the nearby Middle East, had been allowed to take root and officially sanctioned, Europe came to define itself in the Christian mould.

European culture is a symbiosis of secular and religious thought, which together shaped the medieval period and, as they separated, created a divide, sharper than in any other of the world’s cultures, these being trapped within their existential monolithism and which, although they are developing and have their own spheres of influence, have never managed to equal or affirm liberty, fraternity, and equality, concepts with which Europe

revolutionised itself and which it has sought to impart to far-flung parts of the continents.

The great cathedrals, the Renaissance ‘open house’ – open to that which was different – are humanist spaces to the extent that there is a willingness to understand the rights of others, both physical and spiritual. Later, Baroque festivals, sacred liturgies and the opposite, led Europeans to reflect languidly in 19th century cafés, addressing themselves to notions of decadence as opposed to industrial progress and social movements. That was the situation in which both individual and collective existence proceeded, in a way that had no parallel in any other culture, in that particular cognitive state, giving rise to a power which from the 20th century to this day has continued to attract migrants seeking a reference point with which to identify.

In my opinion European culture in the world is above all a welcoming culture, enabling us, through interculturalism, to soar aloft, asserting ourselves and emphasising our difference from those who know that it is difficult to take flight, and even braving cultural adversity, for the greatest beauty lies in going beyond dreams and seeing what they might engender for human development.

We are Europeans and as such, with our cultural and historical dimension, we can turn our gaze on others in the 21st century.

**Pedro Canavarro**

Portugal

PES (1989-1990)

RBW (1990-1994)





## THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

Over the centuries the world has been enriched by contributions to cultural heritage testifying to aspects of the generations that have followed one after another.

There are, sadly, many deplorable cases in which heritage values have been lost. That said, particular attention is being brought to bear today with a view to preserving and promoting them.

Stewardship of this kind often involves considerable financial costs. Those costs are, however, justified, since they create jobs in major industries and, more importantly, it would be intolerable to lose cultural contributions handed down by preceding generations. History would judge us harshly if we neglected our heritage, whatever the financial return to be had from promoting it.

Taking stock of values has to go hand in hand with strong protection, including severe penalties for those who fail to comply with the safeguard measures. Secondly, the utmost efforts must be made, continuing what has already begun, to promote the values embodied in cultural heritage, reaching out everywhere in our countries and in other parts of the world to all population groups, whether young or not so young, well educated or otherwise.

That is the desirable way to promote culture. But attracting large numbers of people to places – many of which are disadvantaged – where cultural values are imparted does much to enhance those values.

Tourists are often attracted for reasons other than culture, for it naturally happens that more of



*Passengers ready to board aircraft. ©European Parliament*

them go to beaches in summer and travel to the mountains in winter. By contrast, cultural heritage values, as well as frequently being found in disadvantaged areas, remote hinterlands, are such that they attract tourists at all seasons of the year, thus making it possible to capitalise on local activities every month. To give the example of the city where I live, Coimbra, the main tourist attraction is the university, a UNESCO site, which receives more than half a million visitors throughout the year, 93% of whom are foreign tourists. The economic value of cultural heritage is in this instance highly significant, given that the numbers of visitors arriving every day are greater than they would be if the heritage were not there.

The aim should be to exploit the economic potential of cultural heritage, which in Europe's case has been greatly enhanced because the market has been opened up for the benefit of European citizens and citizens of other parts of the world, who can also take advantage of the resulting facilities. In the Schengen area, for example, there is no more

stopping or delays at borders, and the adoption of the euro by 19 countries removes the need to exchange currency when moving from place to place.

Given that the preservation of cultural heritage imposes substantial financial burdens and countries naturally have to meet a whole range of social needs, from education to health, it is easy to see that any revenue generated can make quite a significant contribution. The proceeds from monument admission fees often exceed maintenance costs many times over. But the economic advantages go far beyond this immediate return. There are gains to be made for related activities, from hotels to catering services and popular entertainment, and, moreover, in terms of values that likewise deserve to be promoted.

**Manuel Porto**

Portugal

ELDR (1989-1996)

EPP-ED (1996-1999)

mporto@fd.uc.pt

## THE HUMBLE RURAL ARCHITECTURE OF GREECE

Rural architecture in Greece, especially on the islands, has developed a unique character over the centuries. It was called 'unknown architecture', the architecture of shepherds, who keep their sheep and goats in pens. On the islands of the North Aegean – Lemnos and Lesbos for instance – this folk architecture, which differs from that of the Cyclades, has largely survived, and thousands of these stone buildings are scattered over the islands. Equipped with a tape measure and a camera, I wandered around the islands sketching and photographing the rural buildings. When I began to make my first sketches, I realised that I would also have to study the Cyclades; and having done so, I understood the architectural interactions, as on Tinos, an island with a similar rich rural architecture. If we are to preserve this heritage, we need a new type of revolution in education. Schools must at last teach the local architectural history of each region, such as that of Liguria in Italy,

the Gironde in France or the Tyrol in Austria. In Greece, the diversity of rural architecture is revealed in its patchwork of thousands of islands and we urgently need to find ways of preserving it. But the European Union also needs to adopt rules to protect other aspects of folk art. In order to preserve the remaining examples of rural architecture, on 20 July 2006 the plenary session of the European Parliament adopted the report I had drawn up on: 'The Protection of the European natural, architectural and cultural heritage in rural and island regions' (2006/2050(INI)) which proposed inter alia that:

- (a) The cultural heritage must be regarded as an indivisible whole requiring the adoption of joint protective measures;
- (b) Particular attention should be given to the protection and promotion of the natural and architectural heritage of Europe's island areas;
- (c) Action taken in rural and island

areas must take into consideration the following principles:

- a sustainable balance between population and environment,
  - an integrated approach to traditionally agricultural areas,
  - participation by the local populace in the drafting and implementation of policies and alignment between their views and decisions made by the central authorities;
  - ongoing dialogue with social, private and voluntary organisations actively involved with the cultural heritage,
- d) European Union, the Member States, the local authorities and cultural, non-governmental organisations (should) take action to protect and rehabilitate Europe's cultural heritage, particularly small traditional communities, and raise public awareness of its importance;
- e) the Member States and regional and local authorities (should) provide where necessary incentives for the demolition or modification of buildings out of tune with and detracting from, the particular architectural character of the community or locality in which they are situated or with the natural environment and surrounding buildings.

Approximately 14 years have since elapsed, and the implementation of the proposals made by the report has not yet even begun.



Fourni Island ©iStock

**Nikolaos Sifounakis**  
 PES, Greece (2004-2007)  
 info@sifounakis.gr



## UNESCO

Peacekeeping by means of policies such as disarmament and dispute resolution - by strengthening peoples' desire for peace through educational and cultural measures. Is this even possible?

At least it's worth a try, and there's no end in sight, since it will always remain a work in progress:

UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) is an international organisation and one of the 17 legally independent specialised agencies of the United Nations (UN). It is based in Paris. It currently has 195 members and 11 associate members.

The founding treaty was signed in London in 1946 - and was born of the experience of the Second World War. The preamble states:

'Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed'.

This is why UNESCO advocates democratic education on the basis of human rights. They are the subject of a Universal Declaration of 2005, which, although not binding under international law, is nevertheless - in my view - irreversible...

UNESCO is about highlighting the achievements of the peoples,

about mutual understanding, about cultivating and thereby preserving all the wonderful cultural, social, architectural and spiritual treasures of humanity.

We must be able to do that. The UN's practice-oriented programmes and initiatives have played a constructive role in this respect and continue to do so.

For example, UNESCO has coordinated the UN global programme 'Education for All' and the 'Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'. It publishes an annual World Education Report and promotes lifelong learning. This is in line with international cooperation in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences. In the field of communication, a major focus is on promoting press freedom and developing independent media in the developing countries and conflict regions!

This is in line with its Constitution: 'to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture' as well as communication and information. This challenging task is not only ethically demanding - it also needs money. This comes mainly in the form of the mandatory contributions of the Member States.

Even on our own doorstep, we can often see practical impact of UNESCO.

UNESCO aims to protect the cultural and natural heritage, preserve cultural diversity and promote cultural dialogue: since 1976, it has been compiling a list of the cultural and natural heritage of the

world, comprising monuments, historic towns and landscapes. It also manages a major online encyclopaedia, focuses on the world's documentary heritage as part of the Memory of the World programme (1992), lists not only the material but also the intangible cultural heritage such as dance, theatre, music, oral traditions, customs, festivals, crafts.

All of this, it believes, is so valuable that protecting it should be the task of all humanity and not just individual States.

But dark storm clouds are gathering. The organisation cannot act alone. There have been several serious disputes between the United States and UNESCO alone. The United States stayed away for 19 years and the United Kingdom for 12 years. A resolution adopted on the cultural heritage of Palestine led in October 2017 to the United States again declaring its withdrawal. Donald Trump has also criticised the unfair distribution of the financial burden, stating that the organisation has not achieved its goal, but that the US wished to retain observer status. And there is the appalling and brutal destruction of Palmyra in Syria, the ancient oasis city in the centre of the highlands of Aleppo. Since 1980 it has been a World Heritage Site. It is now on the Red List of World Heritage in danger. It is also at risk from looting. This is an extremely alarming development.

**Brigitte Langenhagen**  
EPP-ED, Germany (1990-2004)  
brigitte-langenhagen-cux@t-online.de



Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the UNESCO and Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the EC ©European Union

## CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF ARMED CONFLICT

The European Union has declared 2018 the European Year of Cultural Heritage with the intention of promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and social cohesion. At a time when cultural treasures are being jeopardised and destroyed in areas of conflict, it has never been more important to promote European cultural heritage and uphold it as an essential element in EU foreign relations, and this is also an aim of the Year.

**“The Hague Convention [...] was a milestone in the development from 1902 to today of the legal framework surrounding ‘cultural property’ and of the very concept itself.”**

It is common knowledge that the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict is governed by international conventions and individual state laws.

Drawn up following the tragic events of the Second World War, the Hague Convention of 1954 with its Regulations and Second Protocol of 1999 was a milestone in the development from 1902 to today of the legal framework surrounding ‘cultural property’ and of the very concept itself. The concept of ‘universal cultural heritage’ first appeared in this Convention, which concluded that damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever constitutes damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind. Under the broader concept of ‘world heritage’, the principle of reciprocity in the safeguarding of property was established. Measures for protection,

prevention and security in all high-risk situations, such as armed conflicts and natural disasters, were promoted, and the International Committee of the Blue Shield, which brings together knowledge, experience and specialised international networks and works with military authorities and emergency services, was charged with coordinating them.

The protection of cultural heritage in areas of crisis and the fight against illicit trafficking in artworks were both high on the agenda for the first G7 Culture Ministers’ meeting held on 30 and 31 March 2017 in Florence. As part of UNESCO’s Unite4Heritage campaign, a proposal was made to establish a rapid response task force to protect the world’s artistic heritage called the ‘Blue Helmets for Culture’, which would comprise highly specialised civil and military personnel, with a core team made up of members of the Carabinieri’s Cultural Heritage Protection Unit, art historians, scholars and restorers. Not long before, on 25 March 2017, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2347, an initiative of France and Italy to employ the Carabinieri’s expertise in the ‘Blue Helmets for Culture’, intended solely for the protection of cultural heritage at risk in situations of armed conflict.

In the past 20 years, Italy has taken important steps to protect cultural heritage in areas of conflict. Last November, during Italy’s UN Security Council presidency, it proposed appropriate measures to safeguard cultural heritage and protect historical-cultural diversity

and symbols of identity from barbarous destruction.

**‘A proposal was made to establish a rapid response task force to protect the world’s artistic heritage called the ‘Blue Helmets for Culture’**

The process of democracy and peace can be restored not only by military missions but also by using appropriate and coherent instruments and international operational means. The restoration and safeguarding of cultural heritage, as a testimony to our history, civilisations, cultures, identities, religions and traditions, can be one of the most fruitful and ground-breaking fields, and if preserved correctly and promoted well, cultural property can be an important economic and social resource and can serve as the foundation for democracy. However, this can only happen through continuous collaboration between the political, cultural, academic and military sectors and civil society. There is no doubt that in international relations, ‘cultural diplomacy’ is a vital tool that is only strategic in nature if ‘culture’ is key to diplomatic relations between states, as is already the case for several countries that consider it a ‘prerequisite of foreign policy’.

**Monica Baldi**  
EPP-DE, Italy (1994-1999)  
baldi.monica@email.it

## LUX FILM PRIZE

11 years ago the LUX FILM PRIZE of the European Parliament started to explore new ways of crossing borders and overcoming barriers, building bridges paved by the emotions brought by films, through a common sense of sharing a building-yard which binds our European identity and diversity.

Most European films are only shown in the country where they were produced and are rarely distributed across borders. The contrast is even bigger when we see that more than 60% of released films are European, but account only for one third of the cinema audience.

The European Parliament created the LUX Film Prize to enhance both the distribution of quality European films and the European debate. And also to support European talents and the European film industry.

Distribution of LUX films across Europe is made easier through Parliament's support to the subtitling in the 24 official languages and a film copy produced per country, thus enlarging the audience and market chances.

Culture and films should be seen as 'keys' which could potentially unlock dialogue between communities.

Culture and films are ideal tools to address stereotypes, prejudices, to

pave the way for an intercultural dialogue. With an educational pack we reach even schools.

This is exactly what the LUX Film Prize is about.

**"The LUX Film Prize has created a community that shares a common ground, a platform where our opinions and visions of life can evolve."**

The LUX Film Prize does not just provide a distinct space in more than 20 festivals across Europe every year via the LUX film days. It is much more than the 250 screenings and debates about the topical subjects raised by the films, be they migration, violence against women, gender or economic inequalities, identity and sexual orientation. It is not just about giving the unique opportunity each year to 28 young cinema lovers to be part of the Jury of the Giornate degli Autori in Venice and then to turn into LUX Prize Ambassadors once back to their country, thus strengthening a feeling of European citizenship and developing new audiences.

The LUX Film Prize has created a

community that shares a common ground, a platform where our opinions and visions of life can evolve. The films spotlighted by the LUX Film Prize are an instrument to arouse our curiosity, to learn about our diversities and similarities. For that reason, we are very proud of the simultaneous screenings we have organised for three years around very hot topics, involving audience, film directors and members of the Parliament during LUX Film Days. And last year again the three films of the LUX Film Prize Competition were simultaneously screened all over Europe, together with the Creative Europe Media Desk of the European Commission, in addition to the usual screenings.

Over time, the LUX Film Prize has proved to be a unique and powerful tool for the cultural diplomacy of the European Parliament. The films are requested more and more often by the EU embassies around the world, from South Africa to Argentina, from Iceland to Texas.

Films and the LUX Film Prize are ideal vehicles for spreading values, connecting people, debating and reflecting on Europe and its future. It could be a perfect tool for establishing a strategy of international relations outside the European Union, starting from the Balkans and the Mediterranean area. Culture and cinema as one of the most powerful 'vehicles' should remain a pillar in mutual respect and understanding. ([www.lux-prize.eu](http://www.lux-prize.eu))



**Doris Pack**

EPP-DE, Germany (1989-2014)  
[info@dorispack.de](mailto:info@dorispack.de)

# FMA ACTIVITIES



European Parliament Former Members Association  
Association des anciens députés au Parlement européen





# DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

## PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRACY ACTIVITIES

During the past few months, the Association has engaged in constructive dialogue with the European Parliament and others in order to make use of the valuable experience and expertise of former MEPs in democracy support, election observation and related activities. In association with Brigitte Langenhagen and the FMA Secretariat, I have followed the approach I took while Vice-President for Democracy & Human Rights, namely that former MEPs should be considered as a priority in these activities.

I have participated or led many such missions since I set up the EU's €190M Democracy and Human Rights Initiative (EIDHR) after the fall of the Berlin Wall, still the world's largest dedicated programme. The EIDHR finances all the EU's observer missions. It is good to report that the international Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its connected Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is willing and ready systematically to involve knowledgeable former MEPs in

election observations. This year for example ODIHR's website lists 19 separate missions, from the Russian and Azerbaijani presidential elections to the mid-terms in the USA.

The European Parliament has agreed to do its utmost to encourage and support the candidatures of experienced former MEPs in the core teams of OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Missions. Such experts will continue to be selected following a strict and well-established procedure, but the political experience and expertise of former MEPs – for example their involvement in previous EU observer missions – is considered a particular asset.

Former Members are urged to register in the OSCE/ODIHR Election Expert Database, which remains a precondition for being able to apply for positions in the core team. The FMA Secretariat is at your entire disposal should you need any assistance and further information is available on the FMA website. In addition we have negotiated with the European Parliament (EP) a comprehensive involvement

of former MEPs in its Capacity Building, Mediation and Human Rights activities. These follow EP election observation missions. The European Parliament is now ready to invite former MEPs as speakers and experts to seminars and training sessions organised either in Brussels, Strasbourg or in third countries. In 2018 EP democracy support activities will cover several countries such as Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Tunisia, Morocco, Peru, and Nigeria, and through the Pan African Parliament. In order to respond effectively and quickly to possible requests for experts from the European Parliament and to make OSCE/ODHIR fully aware of the enormous human capital in the FMA, we are updating our database to highlight the specific competences of those members interested and willing to contribute to these fields of activities.

For reasons of insurance, lines of political responsibility and other issues, it has not been possible to engage former Members in EP observation at this stage, although we have had very constructive talks with key personalities. We hope that the systematic and positive involvement of former MEPs in the above programmes may remove current objections.

### Edward McMillan-Scott

Chairman FMA Democracy Working Group.

Vice-President for Democracy & Human Rights 2004-2014.

United Kingdom  
EPP-ED (1984-2009)

ALDE (2010-2014)

[edward@emcmillanscott.com](mailto:edward@emcmillanscott.com)



Edward McMillan-Scott, Abu Zayyad at the Observation Mission to Palestine's parliamentary poll in January 2006

# EP TO CAMPUS PROGRAMME

## CAN UKRAINE LEARN ABOUT CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

On 20 and 21 October I spoke at the Ukrainian European Studies Association in Kharkiv on the EU's tools for conflict resolution. Kharkiv was proposed as the capital of the separatists' 'New Russia', but although Russian is the language spoken by residents of Kharkiv in their day-to-day lives, they did not approve of the secession.

In Kiev, too, Russian is the language you are most likely to hear on the streets. The students at Vernadsky University breathe a sigh of relief when their lecturers allow them to switch from Ukrainian to Russian. History professor Mikhail Stanchev is one person who has continued to lecture in Russian, in spite of the new language law, which stipulates that all teaching should be done in Ukrainian (on 12 October 2017, the Council of Europe criticised the new law as 'an infringement of the rights of national minorities'). Professor Stanchev gave me a copy of his Russian-language book, *World War Three – the Battle for Ukraine*, in which he accuses Putin of being a carbon copy of Hitler. In a private conversation with me, Professor Stanchev acknowledged that Ukraine did bear some responsibility for the conflict, owing to its failure to

establish democracy at local level. He also agreed that it is a problem that the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine forced Ukraine to leave the former Soviet republics' free trade area.

Reports from Kiev suggest that the Baltic and Scandinavian countries are the hawks when it comes to the Ukraine/Russia situation, whereas a number of countries in southern Europe are calling the sanctions into question. They are supported in their view by the UN rapporteur Idriss Jazairy, who has pointed out that the sanctions are costing EU countries USD 3.2 billion per month, and are having more of an impact on innocent Russian citizens than they are on the country's leaders.

The audience at the conference listened with interest as I spoke about the EU's peacemaking tools, from association agreements to sanctions. And they nodded in recognition when I spoke about Nordic conflicts and the peaceful ways in which they had been resolved, such as in 1658 when Sweden took over Skåneland, which Denmark had held for 300 years. Some 150 years later, in 1809, Sweden accepted the loss of Finland to Russia, following the Swedish poet Esais Tegnér's exhortation for 'Finland to be won back from within Sweden's borders'. Norway's secession from the union in 1905 was also agreed to by Sweden, and Finland was allowed to retain Åland on the basis of an international decision taken in the 1920s, despite the population's wish to stay with Sweden. In the 1990s, Boris Yeltsin offered Finland the chance to buy Karelia back, but President Koivisto declined. I pointed out that that

list of instances of Nordic countries accepting the loss of parts of their territories could be used to illustrate the EU principle that, rather than be altered, borders should be made unimportant. At that point someone asked, rather indignantly: 'Are you advising us to give up Crimea and the Donbass, then?' I said I was not. Of course regions have a democratic right to go their own way: look at Scotland, Quebec and Catalonia, for example. But the democratic rules have to be followed. That has not been the case in Crimea and the Donbass.

And Ukraine is not without blame: the language law shows a level of insensitivity that could make Russian-speaking Ukrainians doubt their Ukrainian identity. If Finland – where around five percent of the population are Swedish speakers – can have Swedish as an official language alongside Finnish, why can't Ukraine give Russian official status alongside Ukrainian?

At a demonstration in front of the parliament building in Kiev I was given a little booklet of poetry entitled 'Our fears went up in smoke on the Maidan', apparently written in Russian by a Moscow-born poet. The first poem, 'Ode to Ukraine' is the only one written in Ukrainian. It features the refrain: 'We shed our blood for our freedom, and it showed that we are of Cossack nationality'. That booklet is the Ukrainian identity dilemma in a nutshell.

**Per Gahrton**

Greens/EFA, Sweden (1995-2004)  
per.gahrton@gmail.com



*A moment of the conference*

## CAN THE EU SURVIVE BREXIT?

I was extremely pleased to receive a second invitation to the Euroculture Centre at the University of Göttingen which I first visited in November 2016. I suggested an update on my last year's title 'Can the EU survive Brexit?' Not simply an example of English 'tongue-in-cheek' humour, but a warning that Brexit is not only an existential question for the UK, but also one for the EU.

Certainly the mood among the Masters Students in the three seminars I participated in was puzzlement and sadness about the UK leaving. There was some anxiety among a couple of UK students about their future status and questions from other EU students about their potential status post Brexit.

My last year's visit coincided with the news that Donald Trump had won the Presidential race in the USA. That news was met by the same sadness and puzzlement as the Brexit decision.

This year's visit came in the wake of the German general election which saw a sharp decline in the popularity of the two major parties (CDU/CSU and SPD) and the rise of the anti-EU nationalists, AfD. The fate



*A group of students from the Georg-August-University*

of Chancellor Angela Merkel, widely seen as a stabilising force in the EU, has become an anxious question. We are entering an increasingly uncertain period. The eastern EU states are increasingly sceptical, even hostile to EU policy made in Brussels; witness the widening resentment against EU asylum policy.

'Europe' is increasingly seen as the problem for nation states, not the solution to national problems – a point the 'More Europe' advocates from Brussels fail to grasp. The gap in perceptions of 'Europe' looms large. In my experience of young people, like the students I met in Göttingen and others I have met at

home and on FMA guest lectureships don't share this pessimism. So many of them have benefited from European wide programmes, they travel with ease and confidence. They are prepared to rise to the challenge of competition and opportunity offered by the EU.

However, doubts remain and indeed grow as to whether the EU is there for the benefit of all and not just for the quick, mobile, talented elite. Serious work ahead for the EU which demands less self-congratulatory propaganda and more applied reasoned persuasion.



*Michael Hindley with the students during the seminar at Georg-August-University in Göttingen*

**Michael Hindley**

PES, United Kingdom (1984-1999)  
@HindleyLancs  
info@michaelhindley.co.uk

**CANDRIAM**  
INVESTORS GROUP  
A NEW YORK LIFE COMPANY

Thanks to Candriam for supporting our co-operation with the EUI



## EUROPE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Programme encompassed two components:

- 1) Lectures and discussions at the University
- 2) Participation in the first meeting of the international network of Michelin cities.

This was a clever combination of academic work and a big public event and the organiser Arnaud Diemer did a great work.

- The participants at the lectures at Clermont University were mostly students (often on Erasmus or other EU programmes and from various European countries) involved in projects or writing their thesis, thus providing an opportunity to present some of their work and discuss it with peers.

The fact that all presentations and discussions at the university were in English added to the international atmosphere of the seminar.

The issue of circular economy and which methods and tools could be used to develop a fair and encompassing system, providing for a growing world population without abusing resources and

generating waste and pollution, was in the centre of the presentations. In particular interesting was the concept of 'Circles of Sustainability' presented by Professor Paul James from Sydney University. In this framework the sustainable development of cities is assessed in four domains: ecology, economics, politics and culture ; each domain being sub-divided into 7 fields, such as materials & energy, water & air; production & resourcing, labour & welfare; organisation & governance, communication & movement; engagement & identity, gender & generations. Assessment is made on a nine-step scale starting with critical sustainability to vibrant sustainability. Part of the seminar was dedicated to the future development of cities, showing scenarios of towers with vertical gardens and forest-like buildings, giving as well a chance to discuss the philosophical background of sustainable development of cities. My colleague Zofija Mazek Kukovič and I took part in the discussions and there were two special sessions dedicated to EU issues.

One was a presentation of ourselves

and our work in the E.P. and one was an interview conducted by a retired scientist.

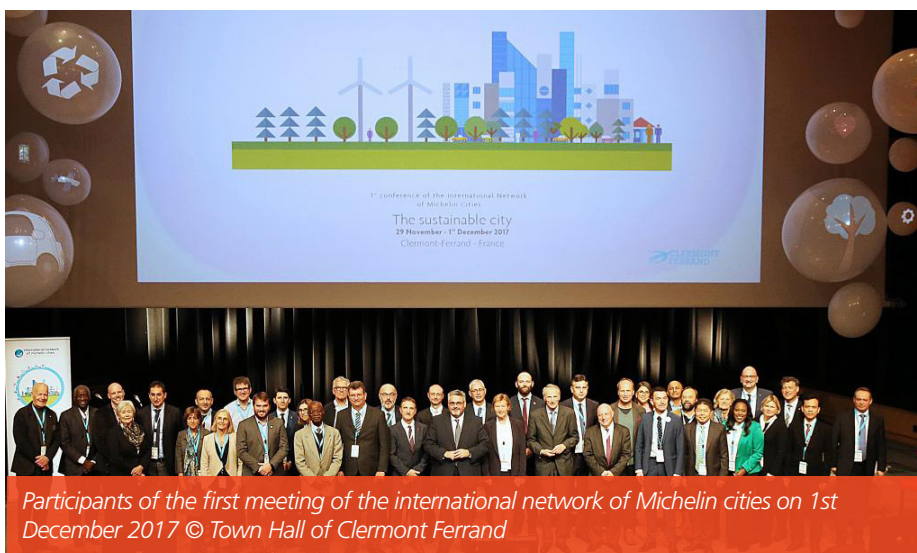
We were able to talk about programmes, budgets and in particular about legislation and how we see the future development.

As the participants came from different countries (Spain, Belgium, Ukraine) there was particular interest in questions of autonomy of regions and participation of regions in policies of the EU, and questions of accession and geopolitics; of course Brexit was an important issue.

I believe, that still after so many years it is important and necessary to explain the development and functioning of European legislation even to participants with very high levels of education.

- As part of the seminar was the first day of the 1st meeting of the international network of Michelin Cities 'Sustainable City', all participants and speakers were invited to the Polydome congress centre. Zofija Mazek Kukovič and I were taking part in the programme as experts. This gave the chance to speak about supportive European legislation and projects/programmes for sustainable cities and underline the importance of working together in Europe.

It has to be noted that there were representatives from all around the world, though I would suggest that the EP and the Former Members Association keep in touch as to encourage further co-operation.



**Ilona Graenitz**  
 PES, Austria (1995-1999)  
 ilona.graenitz@chello.at

## DO WE CARE ABOUT FUTURE GENERATIONS?

It was with great pleasure that I took part in the University of Clermont-Ferrand Jean Monnet Programme and in the International Symposium 'Michelin Network of sustainable cities'. There we looked at what steps would be needed to achieve a sustainable city, and a sustainable EU. Former MEP Ilona Graenitz from the European Parliament Former Members Association (FMA) also took part.

More than three years ago I wrote in my book 'Start up Europe':

'Sustainable economic growth, where we use fewer resources and produce more products, is more realistically achievable in times of crisis than in times of plenty. History has taught us that times of plenty in themselves limit creativity.

The most important areas that will require major changes are mobility, food, health and housing.'

These points were still pertinent in the discussions that took place at the two events at Clermont-Ferrand,

which focused on mobility and sustainable use of world resources. The conference with PhD students examined the issue of sustainability in cities. Given that there is no clear answer to the problem of population growth in cities, with some experts predicting that by 2040 some 70% of the world's population will be living in cities, my talk focused on the need for further research into how to motivate people and create the conditions necessary for people to choose to stay in rural areas. A connection to the land and an intimate relationship with nature foster within us a sense of inner happiness.

Researchers and professors presented challenges for sustainable cities on issues ranging from culture and the environment to energy and impact on our economy and society. In two roundtables, we discussed European legislation pertaining to these matters and future trends. The students asked about this unique 'sense of belonging to the EU'. For them, as students from all over the world, that was the most impressive fact about the EU. Their criticisms concerned issues such as Brexit and the migration crisis.

At the conference organised by the Michelin Network, I gave a presentation on mobility.

'As a former health minister and a former member of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, my activities have focused on the health of people and of our planet.

The European Parliament's work has also focused on the legislation needed as a basis for mobility, which

is a key aspect for sustainable cities. Digital Europe, the internal digital market and big data also present new technological opportunities to connect people whose needs are met by advances in mobility.

We should be thinking not only about people's needs, but also about people's feelings. All of us would like to feel safe, while still having privacy. Mobility could improve people's safety, especially in cases of accidents, natural catastrophes or health emergencies. Mobility and accessibility are important for sustainability and for business development.'

World-renowned photographer Yann Arthus Bertrand used photography and film to present the world's nature and people to the participants. His new film 'WOMAN' shows the misery of women in poverty and calls for political action.

Cécile Coulon, a young and very successful writer, also presented her latest award-winning book 'Trois saisons d'orange'. She spent her childhood in a village and today writes and encourages young people to live more in harmony with nature. As a participant in the FMA Campus programme, I must say that the organisation by the University of Clermont-Ferrand and Professor Arnaud Diemer was excellent. It was also clear that the students were really engaged and keen to participate in our discussion. I would therefore like to thank all participants.

**Jean Monnet Program**  
**ope and sustainable developme**  
**Nov 27th – Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2017**  
**Clermont-Ferrand, France**



Poster of the conference

**Zofija Mazej Kukovič**  
EPP, Slovenia (2011-2014)  
zofija.mazejkukovic@gmail.com

## MEETING WITH THE YOUNG GENERATION

For a number of years now, I have committed to the EP to Campus Programme largely due to its main objective to continue delivering expertise that builds up the students' knowledge capital.

The process enjoys reciprocity – as guest speakers, we benefit from the analytical approach and critical thinking of the young generation. This December, I focused on EU Migration Insights 2017 and the role of the EP in the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The first lecture shed light on the unprecedented global movement of people. We discussed migrant integration public policies of the MSs. We also approached migration from the perspective of identity and populism. I briefly commented on the reform of the Dublin system and the EU return policy.

As concerns over migration and identity are central to European politics, we devoted generous time to discuss two surveys covering two opposite aspects.

One of the surveys belongs to the London-based Royal Institute of International Affairs, known as

Chatham House. It is designed to probe the attitudes in the EU towards the perceived effects of migration, the refugee crisis and how it has been managed since 2015. The specific issue of Islam in European societies is also in the focus of the survey.

The second survey is produced by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), based in Vienna, and it throws light on the experiences of Muslim refugees and their children born in EU MSs.

We could make two general conclusions:

- Populist movements will continue to find resonance among the public when they seek to amplify such concerns into a broader opposition towards the EU. So, wide-ranging strategies will be necessary to engage more authoritarian-minded voters and to re-frame debates about migration in such a way as to reduce perceptions of a cultural or identity threat.
- Over the longer term, the leadership of the EU institutions, civil society and business will need to invest efforts in attempting to change

attitudes. A source of optimism, however, is stemming from the EU's advantages compared to those of other parts of the globe – not only that some of the EU MSs economies are among the most competitive in the world, but they also enjoy some of the most equal societies. The challenge for the EU is to utilize these strengths and to build on the historic achievements of integration.

To bring the international group of around 60 students closer together, I threw light on the refugee solidarity concert series Give a Home that took place in cities all over the world last September. The English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran joined, too, a lineup of 1,000 artists performing at the places of their music fans in support for the cause of the refugees.

The second topic concerning The Role of the EP in the UK's withdrawal from the EU provoked many questions under the mantra 'Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed'. We discussed in detail the citizens' rights, Good Friday Agreement and single financial settlement. We had a brainstorming session based on the public opinion in the post-Brexit era. Our Friday session had its peak: a small creative project. Students from Syria, Ghana, Croatia, Ukraine, Czech Republic and I came together to call for empathy in a song titled Race to Freedom, dedicated to 18 December, International Migrants Day and 20 June, World Refugee Day.



Mariela Baeva with a group of students from the Mendel University

**Mariela Baeva**

ALDE, Bulgaria (2007-2009)

[mariela.baeva@nanotech-oecd-partner.eu](mailto:mariela.baeva@nanotech-oecd-partner.eu)



## CRISIS AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

At a seminar in Paris on 'Crisis and the Future of Democracy', chaired by former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin and attended by Members of the National Assembly, senior officials and representatives of civil life, I had the honour of giving the concluding speech. Here are some of my remarks.

Some of the continent's great minds have argued that democracy, the political system of a free society, is facing an existential crisis. It appears that a certain pessimism is inherent in any socio-philosophical analysis. Personally, I prefer the optimism of political will: Even if many citizens seem unconvinced by the practice, the principle of democracy remains highly regarded in all our countries. Democracies in Europe share the same principles but apply different procedures according to their cultural traditions and historical experiences. This is not something which separates us though; it unites us. However we must not ignore certain serious deviations: In Poland, where the government is on the point of curtailing the independence of the judiciary. In Hungary, where a particular form of authoritarianism is developing. And not forgetting other countries where democracy has clearly been undermined by corruption and criminality. In almost all our countries democracy is being challenged by nationalism, isolationism and rising xenophobia. Let us hope and work to ensure that the obligation to justify oneself in the EU institutions can serve as protection against going too far. Surveying the situation in Europe must not mean we take our eye off the state of democracy elsewhere in

the world: Militant Arabic Islamism seeks to crush it as a product of Western civilisation. Russia and China tacitly mock it as an exhausted model that is ill-adapted to the demands of the modern world, and treat us openly in this way. Around 150 of the countries in the United Nations cannot be classified as democracies in the strict sense. For most of them, democracy is clearly not the preferred choice for the future. If we needed to strengthen the unification of Europe in order to assert its political, economic and cultural place in a globalised world, we need to do so even more to maintain it as a safeguard of sovereignty and democracy.

Important decisions for our national societies are increasingly being transferred to global organisations and conferences where the source of democracy – the sovereignty of the people – disappears into a void. The European Union can and must serve as a vessel in which to nurture it. It is the only one of the supranational organisations in which citizens are represented by a parliament elected by universal suffrage; the only one in which decisions are taken by a majority of states representing a majority of citizens; the only one in which national parliaments can intervene directly at supranational level. In a pragmatic way, we are in the process of developing the first supranational democracy in the world.

All of Europe's nations find it difficult to transfer certain sovereign powers to the Union. Yet every day we all casually give them up to the algorithms of privately-owned Big Data. By doing that we are

transforming democracy. And we have yet to fully understand the consequences of this transformation. But one thing is clear: For the electronics sector democracy is no more than an outdated technology. It needs to be saved by drawing together in the Union.

The nation state is weakened but retains the affection of its citizens. The European Union did not descend from the stars, nor was it born of revolution; it was created by its Member States. It needs them for its legitimacy, and to implement its decisions. Let us, therefore, reform the institutions and procedures of the Union with caution, so as not to undermine it. And we must never forget that its democracy does not flow from new institutions and procedures but from the citizens' hope of finding in it security, participation, justice and solidarity. Democracy in Europe is far from being an old and outdated political system, but it is not immune to people's irrationality and error. It is by definition inconsistent, plural, incomplete and still 'a work in progress', but always linked to the image that Europeans have had of free man since the Enlightenment, and to the optimism that has been part of the almost genetic makeup of democracy since Athenian times.

**Klaus Hänsch**

Former President of the European Parliament

S&D, Germany (1979-2009)

[klaus.haensch@web.de](mailto:klaus.haensch@web.de)

# CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUI

## PROGRAMME FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Co-operation with the European University Institute (EUI), and in particular with the Historical Archives of the European Union (HAEU), has continued with the much-appreciated participation of our members in educational programmes for students. Our members, with their experience and extensive knowledge, continue to make this collaboration a success.

This year, the Historical Archives have developed a programme for high schools focused on three main themes: Brexit, Migrations and Rising of nationalist movements across Europe. The topics were well received by students from secondary schools who showed great interest. Numerous meetings were held in the prestigious Villa Salviati in Florence to discuss these highly topical issues. The meetings were attended by our members Monica Baldi, Luciana Castellina, Vitaliano Gemelli, Gisela Kallenbach, Niccolò Rinaldi, Riccardo Ventre, and Sir Graham Watson. Monica Baldi, FMA Board member responsible for relations with EUI, participated in an event celebrating the award ceremony of the Sakharov Prize 2017 jointly organised on 13 December 2017 by the Historical Archives of the EU and the European



*From left: Marco Cervioni, Roberto Parenti, Monica Baldi, Vitaliano Gemelli and Dieter Schlenker*

Parliament Liaison Office in Italy. The Democratic Opposition in Venezuela have been announced as this year's Sakharov Prize laureate, following a decision by Parliament President Antonio Tajani and the political groups leaders. Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, former President of the European Parliament (2007 – 2009) participated in the award ceremony in Florence and one hundred and twenty high-school students could engage with him in a question and answer session on human rights and freedom of thought. In regard to the Prize, Hans-Gert Pöttering said that we must "support those who fight selflessly and courageously for the rights of others [...] as if we stop fighting for the rights of others, we will one day lose our own."



*Sir Graham Watson during his intervention*



*Vitaliano Gemelli during his intervention*



*From left: Marco Incerti, Director of the Communications Service at the EUI, Monica Baldi, and Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering*



*Riccardo Ventre during his intervention*



## BUILDING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

I had a wonderful time working with a hundred or so secondary school pupils from Florence at the European University Institute in Fiesole. The boys and girls seemed very interested in what we were doing, to the point of even being too keen to please. By 'too keen' that I mean that, despite the dramatic decline in the popularity of the institutions, there was a remarkable lack of critical remarks about the EU. Most of the pupils displayed intelligence and skill in amending the proposals discussed in their working groups. Maybe they felt pressured by the very formal setting, but I just wondered if they were holding back, keeping their deeply held reservations to themselves.

**“What I took from it, however, and this is something I think we should all bear in mind, is that rather than focusing solely on what the institutions do, these meetings should also be about debating and analysing the issues facing European society.”**



*Monica Baldi, Dieter Schlenker and Luciana Castellina during her participation*

I should make it clear that overall the initiative was very beneficial and that the pupils who organised it did a great job. What I took from it, however, and this is something I think we should all bear in mind, is that rather than focusing solely on what the institutions do, these meetings should also be about debating and analysing the issues facing European society. I still believe that the main weakness of the European project is that after 50 years there are still no intermediate bodies working at European level to bridge the gap between the people and the institutions - bodies of this kind are the backbone of democracy.

Take trade unions, political parties and media outlets, for example. They may be European in theory, but in reality they remain resolutely national. I think we need to draw on the knowledge of how each Member State is organised, how each society expresses itself culturally and politically, as the basis for building the European community that has yet to take shape. This is why it is taking so long for solidarity to replace rivalry as the founding principle of the EU.



*Luciana Castellina during her intervention*

**Luciana Castellina**  
ALDE, Italy (2007-2009)  
lcastellina@gmail.com



# FMA ANNUAL SEMINAR

## THE 2017 FMA SEMINAR - 30 NOVEMBER

*What form will the EU global security and defence strategy take in the future?*

### Cross-border threats and cooperation

The exchange of views with the Commissioner for the Security Union, Sir Julian King, highlighted the need to step up joint security and defence efforts in the European Union.

Member States are confronted with an increasing number of cross-border threats, such as terrorism and organised crime, which call for a collective response. More specifically, the interoperability of national information systems needs to be enhanced and the exchange of information between intelligence services improved.

The debate also provided an opportunity to remind everyone that closing borders is no sort of viable response to the increase in migratory flows and the threat of terrorism. A far more effective approach would be to improve the way in which countries share information on the profiles of newly arrived immigrants.



Constance Barbou des Courières



A moment of the FMA Annual Seminar on 30 November 2017

### Making the most of the single market

The EU has one key advantage when it comes to optimising security and external action policy: its single market. This powerful lever enables the EU to present a united front to the rest of the world and develop tools that can be used in all 28 countries.

The best example of this is the joint system for external sanctions: Member States simultaneously apply the same sanctions in the fields of defence and trade, thus enhancing their effectiveness. By employing this method, the EU sends out a very strong message to the international community, and it should serve as a model for stepping up its joint action in the area of security and defence.

### The Brexit hurdle

The prospect of the UK leaving the EU has, however, thrown a spanner in the works of closer European cooperation. Many questions on future cooperation with the UK were put to Commissioner Sir Julian King, who is himself British. He believes that a pragmatic approach is needed, as it is in the interests of both parties to continue cooperating to ensure collective security. However, only time will tell whether and how this

fits into the framework for future relations.

### Cybersecurity

In addition to progress in the area of military cooperation, cybersecurity was a key topic at the conference. Improving network and information security is one of the priorities of the Commission, which took measures intended to do just that in late 2017. ENISA's mandate was revised to give the agency fresh impetus and new legislative proposals are due to be considered over the course of 2018. For this project to succeed, all the Member States will have to be on board. Information that is sensitive and that has a bearing on national security needs to be shared among the Member States in order to combat cybercrime. This is yet another reason why priority must be given to intergovernmental cooperation to ensure the collective security of the Union.

**Constance Barbou des Courières**

EP Trainee

constance-barbou@hotmail.fr.



# LATEST NEWS

## NEW MEMBERS



**Maria da  
Assunção  
ESTEVES**

(Portugal, 2004-  
2009, EPP)

Maria da Assunção Esteves was member of the European Parliament from 2004 until 2009. Through her time in the European Parliament she served in the committee on Constitutional Affairs, the subcommittee on Human Rights and the Delegation to the EU-Russia Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).



**Ivailo KALFIN**

(Bulgaria, 2009-  
2014, S&D)

Ivailo Kalfin was member of the European Parliament from 2009 until 2014. Through his time in the European Parliament he served as Vice-President in the committee on Budgets, and as a member in the special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013 and the delegation for relations with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo.



**Cora VAN  
NIEUWENHUIZEN**

(Netherlands,  
2014-2017, ALDE)

Cora Van Nieuwenhuizen was member of the European Parliament from 2014 until 2017. Through her time in the European Parliament she served as vice-president in the delegation for relations with India and as a member in the committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion, the special committee on Tax Rulings and Other Measures Similar in Nature or Effect.



**Beatrix VON  
STORCH**

(Germany, 2014-  
2017, ECR/ EFDD)

Beatrix von Storch was member of the European Parliament from 2014 until 2017. Through her time in the European Parliament she served in the committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Committee of Inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions and maladministration in the application of Union law in relation to money laundering, tax avoidance and tax evasion and the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, Delegation to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee.



# LATEST NEWS

## ACTIVITIES



### 2 May 2018

#### EPRS INFORMATION SEMINAR

From 3.30 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.  
European Parliament, Brussels.

### 2 May 2018

#### ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Current and former MEPs will commemorate their colleagues who passed away in 2017-2018.  
From 5.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.  
European Parliament, Brussels.

### 2 May 2018

#### FMA COCKTAIL AND DINNER DEBATE

From 6.30 p.m. in Members' Restaurant, European Parliament, Brussels.

### 3 May 2018

#### FMA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ANNUAL LUNCH

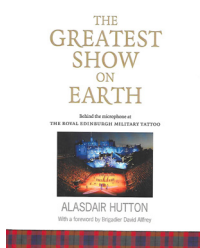
At 10.15 a.m. followed by the Annual Lunch at 1.00 p.m.  
The vote will open at 9.45 a.m. and will close at 12.30 p.m.

### 4-5 June 2018

#### VISIT TO BULGARIA

Registrations are open.

## NEW PUBLICATION



'The Greatest Show on Earth' by Alasdair Hutton, published by Luath Press Ltd, 224 pages, £14.99, in English only.

Available through Amazon or from the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo website:  
[www.edintattoo.co.uk](http://www.edintattoo.co.uk)

## NEW TRAINEE

The FMA has a new trainee, who will work for the FMA from 1 March 2018 until 31 July 2018. Ms Alessandra Perna is of Italian nationality and she holds a master degree in Neuroethics at the Sapienza University in Roma. Members can address her in Italian and English.



## IN MEMORIAM

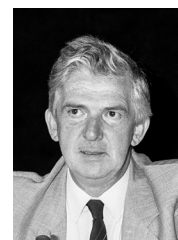
† 29 October 2017  
**Didier MOTCHANE**  
**SOC, France (2007-2009)**

He served as a French member of the European Parliament from 2007 to 2009. During his time in Parliament, Mr Motchane was a member of the Socialist Group. At the national level he represented the 'Parti socialiste'.



† 21 November 2017  
**Pol MARCK**  
**EPP, Belgium (1984-1994)**

He served as a Belgian member of the European Parliament from 1984 to 1994. During his time in Parliament, Mr Marck was a member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian-Democratic Group). At the national level he represented the 'Christelijke Volkspartij'.



† 28 December 2017  
**Jean-François HORY**  
**SOC, ERA, France (1989-1999)**

He served as a French member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 1999. During his time in Parliament, Mr Hory was a member of the Group of the Party of European Socialists and the Group of the European Radical Alliance. At the national level he represented the 'Parti radical'.



† 2 January 2018  
**Paulette DUPORT**  
**SOC, France (1981-1984)**

She served as a French member of the European Parliament from 1981 to 1984. During her time in Parliament, Ms Duport was a member of the Group of the Socialist Group. At the national level he represented the 'Parti socialiste'.



## IN MEMORIAM

† 10 January 2018

**Horst SEEFELD**

**SOC, Germany (1970-1989)**

He served as a German member of the European Parliament from 1970 to 1989. During his time in Parliament, Mr Seefeld was a member of the Socialist Group. At the national level he represented 'Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands'.



† 17 January 2018

**Luc BEYER DE RYKE**

**ALDE, Belgium (1980-1989)**

He served as a Belgian member of the European Parliament from 1980 to 1989. During his time in Parliament, Mr Beyer de Ryke was a member of the Liberal and Democratic Group. At the national level he represented Parti réformateur libéral.



† 1 February 2018

**Edouard FERRAND, MEP**

**EFN, France (2014-2018)**

He served as a French member of the European Parliament from 2014 to 2018. During his time in Parliament, Mr Ferrand was a member of Europe of Nations and Freedom Group. At the national level he represented Front national.



† 4 February 2018

**Etelka BARSÍ-PATAKY**

**EPP-ED, Hungary (2004-2009)**

She served as a Hungarian member of the European Parliament from 2004 to 2009. During her time in Parliament, Ms Barsi-Pataky was a member of the European People's Party and European Democrats Group. At the national level he represented the 'Fidesz-Magyar Polgári Szövetség'.

