

*FMA activities*

# CO-OPERATION WITH THE EUI

## A FRUITFUL CO-OPERATION

One year after the beginning of the FMA co-operation with the European University Institute (EUI), based in Italy, the result is very positive and we continue to move forward.

At the end of January, the FMA President Enrique Barón Crespo and I visited the EUI in Florence. We met with the President of the European University Institute, Prof. Renaud Dehousse and the EUI Secretary-General, Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi. There was great willingness to continue cooperating with our Association and strong appreciation for our availability to contribute to the EUI programmes bearing in mind that our members can offer a high level of expertise in a variety of fields. The EUI recognises the importance of keeping the historical memory, which is the basis of current policy choices, which can be explained well by those who have experienced the development and growth of the EU through their own political and social engagement.

We will attempt to work out, together with the Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Brigid Laffan, which activities would be appropriate to pursue in

their main research areas. We will also discuss further the opportunity to organize workshops, or other actions, considering that this year we celebrate 60 years of the Treaties of Rome, 25 years since the Maastricht Treaty was signed and 30 years of Erasmus programme.

In a further interesting meeting, the Director of the Historical Archives of the EU (HAEU), Dieter Schlenker, confirmed that he was keen to continue working with us on educational programmes for students. This year the programme is focusing on drafting a new Treaty for an education to a European Citizenship, a subject that so far has been well received by the students who are indeed very creative in exploring visions for a better future education as Europeans. For 2017, the Archives have developed a new project to mark the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome and the Association's members have been invited to participate in this valuable programme.

The visit to the Institute was combined with our participation in the interesting workshop organised by the Robert Schuman Centre For



*Monica Baldi with Ambassador Vincenzo Grassi, Secretary General of the EUI*

Advanced Studies on 'How National Referendums are challenging the EU'. President Barón Crespo besides doing a historical overview feature of those who have personally experienced certain events, he stressed the importance to carefully consider the 'political pollution'. The round table explored what we know and what we need to know about the way in which the recent round of national referendums from Greece and Switzerland to the UK are beginning to challenge the institutions and policies of the European Union. The debate revealed the importance of carefully evaluating the constitutions of the Member States especially considering some articles of the Lisbon Treaty on the referendum and on the participative democracy. In the June Bulletin, we will continue to inform you on the relationships with the EUI and would like to thank all those members who contributed and will contribute, through their expertise and extensive knowledge, to make this cooperation a success.

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*Enrique Barón Crespo during his intervention at the EUI workshop entitled 'How National Referendums are Challenging the EU' ©EUI*