



THE STATE OF THE UNION

Final Programme – Parallel Sessions THE STATE OF THE UNION 2014

Thursday 8 May - Badia Fiesolana, European University Institute

14.30 - 16.30 Parallel sessions: The Future of the Social and Political Model for Europe

The global financial crisis and the related Eurozone crisis of the last 5 years have opened a Pandora's box of dilemmas that have loomed in the European integration process since the annus mirabilis of 1989 when Europe was re-connected, the Communist world imploded, and some scholars predicted the "end of history" and the prevalence of a liberal capitalist order as the best political system. Today Europe is facing important questions as regards its unity (or the development of a 2- or 3-gear Union); its democratic legitimacy (which it strives to improve through the first ever truly European elections); its social solidarity: the European social model is being reformed in neoliberal directions that increasingly monetarise and privatise public goods and services; and its global role in trade and development in a fast changing world.

The following parallel sessions present cutting-edge research findings in specific policy areas where these social and political challenges are played out: we discuss the Gordian knot of controlling migration vs providing asylum; we question the European social model in higher education; we look at the EU Neighbourhood policy dilemmas in the light of the dramatic events that have unfolded in Ukraine; and last but not least we discuss the role of the EU in stimulating and regulating trade, investment and development.

- Session A Migration Challenges for the EU in the next 10 years
- Session B The European Social Model in Higher Education: Are the Poor Paying for the Rich Kids to Study?
- Session C After Ukraine: A New Cold War?
- Session D The WTO Deal in Bali and Shift towards Mega-Regionals: Missed Opportunities?

Session A **Migration Challenges for the EU in the Next 10 years**

Refettorio

Migration issues cut across internal (home affairs) and external (foreign policy, development) EU policies. This is a particularly crucial moment for the development of EU migration policy in the next decade. The European Commission is currently preparing the new 5 year plan for asylum and migration policies as the so called "Stockholm programme" (previous 5 year plan for 2009-2014) is coming to an end. This new plan has to take stock of lessons learnt so far and of the new institutional environment under the Lisbon Treaty. Particular areas of concern include the management of legal migration, the cooperation with third countries (of origin and

transit of immigrants), the control of irregular migration together with an effective asylum system that provides protection to those who need it, and increasing intra EU migration not only in the East to West but also in the South to North direction.

Chair: **Anna Triandafyllidou**, Robert Schuman Chair, Global Governance Programme, EUI

Speakers:

Sergio Carrera, Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Justice and Home Affairs Programme, Centre for European Policy Studies

Philippe De Bruycker, Deputy Director, Migration Policy Centre, EUI

Ruby Gropas, Research Fellow, Global Governance Programme, EUI

Ettore Recchi, Professor of Sociology, Observatoire Sociologique du Changement, Sciences Po

Martin Scheinin, Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Department of Law, EUI

Session B

The European Social Model in Higher Education: are the Poor Paying for the Rich Kids to Study?

Sala del Capitolo

Education is a public good and indeed a very important one as it defines young people's chances for professional and socio-economic advancement as well as their integration into society at large. In a knowledge-based society, education is also an important asset for the state, in pursuit of the public interest. European countries have distinguished themselves from North America and other continents for providing free education for all at all levels of education up to the first University degree. Until recently the state was also subsidising students through various types of allowances, discounts and loans, in most European countries. New evidence suggests though that such a free for all public higher education system is actually perpetuating inequality and preventing upwards mobility for the working class youth while it also deprives public Universities from much-needed open competition and meritocratic funding. This panel offers cutting edge recent findings on the management of higher education and proposes ways to reform it.

Chair: **Andrea Ichino**, Professor of Econometrics, Department of Economics, EUI

Moderator: **Daniela Vincenti**, Editor-in-Chief, EurActiv

Speakers:

Stefania Giannini, Italian Minister of Education, Universities and Research

Lorenzo Stanghellini, Professor of Business Law, Department of Law, University of Florence

Session C

After Ukraine: A New Cold War?

Teatro

The uprising in Ukraine and the dramatic events that have unfolded in the last few weeks are a major test for the EU Neighbourhood Policy. Hard core geo-politics are at play again in Europe accompanied by a Russian display of force. The EU Neighbourhood policy is a crucial part of the Union's foreign policy repertoire : while mostly concerned with economic and political relations, including taming migration and facilitating trade, the policy is also designed to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and create a buffer zone between Europe and zones of instability to the east and south. The "bras de fer" between Vladimir Putin's government and the EU over Ukraine and particularly over the future of Crimea , has reminded us of the Cold War – a time which most of us considered both over and forgotten. Big questions are raised by these events. Do the developments in Ukraine and in Russia-EU (or Russia-West) relations signal the start of a new type of tension, a 'Cool War'? Or are they just

another peripheral “hot” incident which will not undermine Europe’s peaceful status quo? How should the EU reconsider the nature and aims of its Neighbourhood Policy in the light of these developments? What are the implications of these developments for security and defence in Europe? And what are the implications for wider global politics and balances?

Chair: **Brigid Laffan**, Director of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

Speakers:

Marise Cremona, Professor of European Law, EUI

Ulrich Krotz, Professor of International Relations, Joint Chair RSCAS/Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI

Anthony Teasdale, Director-General of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), European Parliament

Session D

The WTO Deal in Bali and Shift Towards Mega-Regionals-Missed Opportunities?

Sala Seminario 2

After 12 years and counting the WTO concluded its first agreement at the Bali Ministerial meeting in December 2013. Does it matter? Europe and the US are putting most of their eggs into another basket: plurilateral agreements with like-minded countries. The three main examples are the TTIP, the Trade in Services Agreement negotiations among 23 countries and the TPP. All are billed as 21st century initiatives. Will they generate any significant economic payoffs? Do they have downsides? The big emerging economies are excluded or not participating, but that is arguably where the biggest potential for mutual gains can be realized. New approaches are arguably required to benefit European countries and its trading/development partners.

Chair: **Bernard Hoekman**, GGP Programme Director Global Economics: Trade, Investment and Development, EUI

Speakers:

László Bruszt, Professor of Sociology, Department of Political and Social Sciences, EUI

Joseph Francois, Professor of Economics, Bern University and World Trade Institute

Patrick Messerlin, Professor Emeritus, Sciences Po and Chairman of ECIPE’s Steering Committee/Advisory Board

Andrea Renda, Jean Monnet Fellow, EUI

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