

Activity Report

2012





Our **C E S** Team

Credits

Activity Report 2012 Centre for European Studies

Editors: José Luis Fontalba, Ana María Martín, Enda McNamara

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Centre for European Studies

Rue du Commerce 20

B-1000 Brussels

The Centre for European Studies (CES) is the political foundation of the European People's Party (EPP) dedicated to the promotion of Christian Democrat, conservative and like-minded political values.

For more information please visit:

www.thinkingeurope.eu

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Welcome



Tomi Huhtanen
CES Director

Wilfried Martens
CES President

Antonio López-Istúriz
CES Secretary Treasurer

2012

2012 was a pivotal year in European politics. The economic crisis reached a peak, but after four years of non-stop crisis management it would appear that the worst is behind us. While parts of Europe still face a long road to recovery, a consensus seems to have emerged on the necessity of the measures that have been taken and the positive effect they are having. Beyond our borders, the Arab revolutions and transitions to democracy in North Africa and the Middle East continue to be a foreign policy issue which requires constant and close attention.

At the Centre for European Studies (CES), we believe that one of our key roles is not just to study developments in Europe, but also to be proactive and present the centre-right's proposals and vision for the future. We created a platform for this very purpose with the Economic Ideas Forum, which, for the third time, brought together highly influential policymakers, academics, journalists and stakeholders to discuss Europe's economic future.

Our efforts to understand the Arab Spring came full circle with the culmination of the Springeneration project. After gathering the opinion of thousands of Arab citizens, nine of them were given the opportunity to travel to Brussels and share their views directly with European politicians and academics at the European Parliament.

Among the year's notable events was the Third Annual Transatlantic Think Tank Conference, which the CES co-hosted with the International Republican Institute. The event, held in Brussels, continues to grant key policy shapers the opportunity to reaffirm the bond between Europe and the United States, as well as providing them with a forum to discuss the issues which affect citizens on both sides of the Atlantic.

This was also a year of innovation, with the launch of the CES Academy. The Academy seeks to prepare a new generation for leadership roles through providing selected participants with training and guidance in order to improve their organisational, analytical and communication skills.

Our research this year also covered everything from green investment in Europe and the security implications of climate change; to the changing nature of European party politics and the values the Union needs for the twenty-first century.

2012 marked the fifth anniversary of the founding of the CES. Five years in which the foundation has grown exponentially, with more than 15 events organised per year solely by the CES, over 60 in cooperation with its member foundations and more than 160 publications produced, including research papers, policy briefs, books and the academic journal 'European View', published twice a year. Moreover, the CES re-launched its website, www.thinkingeurope.eu, to effectively communicate with its large and growing audience with the aim of continuing to inform and shape public policy decisions from a centre-right perspective in the years ahead.

About us

- **Executive Board**
- **Academic Council**
- **Research Associates**
- **Staff**
- **Visiting Fellows**
- **Individual Members**
- **Internships**
- **CES Member Foundations**

The Centre for European Studies (CES), established in 2007, is the political foundation of the European People's Party (EPP). The CES embodies a pan-European mindset, promoting Christian Democrat, conservative and like-minded political values. It serves as a framework for national political foundations linked to member parties of the EPP. It currently has 26 member foundations in 20 EU and non-EU countries. The CES takes part in the preparation of EPP programmes and policy documents. It organises seminars and training on EU policies and on the process of European integration.

The CES also contributes to formulating EU and national public policies. It produces research studies and books, electronic newsletters, policy briefs, and the twice-yearly 'European View' journal. Its research activities are divided into six clusters: party structures and EU institutions, economic and social policies, EU foreign policy, environment and energy, ethics, values and religion, and new societal challenges. Through its papers, conferences, authors' dinners and website, the CES offers a platform for discussion among experts, politicians, policymakers and the European public.

Executive Board

The Executive Board is composed of a maximum of eight members, including the President and the Secretary Treasurer, elected by the General Assembly of the CES. Its roles range from drafting the annual programme based on agreed research priorities, ensuring the legal representation and financial supervision of the activities of the Centre, as well as steering the expansion of the CES network of member organisations.

Wilfried Martens | President of the CES



Wilfried Martens is the President of the Centre for European Studies. He served as Prime Minister of Belgium for 12 years, he was a co-founder of the European People's Party in 1976 and has been its President since 1990. From 1994 to 1998, he was a Member of the European Parliament, chairing the EPP Group. From October 2000 to November 2001 he was also the President of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI).

Antonio López-Istúriz | Secretary Treasurer of the CES



Antonio López-Istúriz is the Secretary Treasurer of the CES, EPP Secretary General and a Member of the European Parliament. From 1999 to 2002 he worked as personal adviser to former Prime Minister of Spain José María Aznar. Mr López-Istúriz has also been the Executive Secretary of the CDI since 2002 and is a member of the National Executive Committee of the Partido Popular (PP).

Joseph Daul



Joseph Daul has been the Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament since 2007. He was elected to the European Parliament in 1999 as a member of the French Union for a Popular Movement (UMP). Mr Daul served as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and as Chairman of the Conference of Committee Chairmen (2002-2007). He was previously a member of the Economic and Social Committee (1980-1982).



Olof Ehrenkrona

Olof Ehrenkrona is an Ambassador and Senior Adviser for the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, where he deals with issues related to globalisation. He is also a Policy Adviser at the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation. In the early 1990s, during the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transformation of Eastern and Central Europe, he was Head of Policy Planning in the Swedish Prime Minister's Office.



Raymond H.J.M. Gradus

Raymond H.J.M. Gradus is the Director of the CDA Research Institute and Professor of Public Administration and Economics at the VU University in Amsterdam. Previously he served as Director of the Directorate for Financial and Economic Affairs of the Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (2003-2007) and Director of the Directorate for Forecasting and Analysis of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (2002-2003).



György Granasztói

György Granasztói is a Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister of Hungary, Victor Orban. He has served as Hungarian Ambassador to the European Union and NATO from 1990 to 1994 and as President of the Union of Hungarian Civic Cooperation from 2000 to 2002. He is a laureate of the Charles Simonyi Grant and in 2009 he received the French Légion d'Honneur. He holds a degree in History and French from ELTE University Budapest, where he is professor of History since 1985.



Hans-Gert Pöttering

Hans-Gert Pöttering is the Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the only Member of the European Parliament (Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Germany) continuously serving since the first elections in 1979. From 1999 to 2007, he served as the Chairman of the EPP Group, and from 2007 to 2009, as the President of the European Parliament. Among other honours, he has received the Grand Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.



Yannis Valinakis

Yannis Valinakis served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of the Greek Parliament (2004-2009) and as a Jean Monnet Professor of European Affairs at the University of Athens and other Universities. He is currently the President of the Jean Monnet European Centre of Excellence, University of Athens, and the Dean of the Law School, Neapolis University. He is also a Senior Visiting Fellow at the European Institute of the LSE. He has published widely in international and European journals in five languages.

Academic Council

The Executive Board nominates esteemed academics and researchers as members of the Academic Council in order to increase the academic scope of CES and oversee the scientific standards of its research, studies and activities. This includes enhancing the standing and visibility of the CES in the academic sphere, contributing with expertise, advice and ideas to ensure the Centre is always pursuing cutting-edge research. The Academic Council also proposes new and innovative projects and implements the highest standard of peer review.



Werner Fasslabend

Werner Fasslabend is the Chairman of the CES Academic Council. Between 1987 and 2007 he was member of the Austrian National Council, the lower chamber of the Parliament; he was the Third President of the National Council (2000-2002) and served as the Federal Minister of Defence for ten years (1990-2000). Since 2004 he has been President of the ÖVP Political Academy (PolAk) as well as of the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES).



Bruno Aguilera Barchet

Bruno Aguilera-Barchet is Professor of Comparative Legal History and Director of the Institute for International Legal Studies at King Juan Carlos University of Madrid. He holds a Ph.D. in Law, he was Visiting Fellow at Harvard Law School and he is currently a Visiting Professor at the Universities of Milan and Paris. He is also Member of the Ordre des Palmes Académiques, a distinction awarded by the French Government to promote excellence in teaching.



Konstantina E. Botsiou

Konstantina E. Botsiou is Associate Professor of Modern History and International Politics at the University of Peloponnese and holds a Ph.D. in Modern History from the University of Tübingen, Germany. She has served as Deputy Director at the European Jean Monnet Centre of the Athens University. At the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (KKID) she has held the positions of Director of Publications and Research (2001-2009), General Director (2009-2011) and Vice President from 2011.



John Bruton

John Bruton is a former Prime Minister of Ireland, Chairman of the CES Fundraising Committee, Visiting Fellow at the European Institute in the London School of Economics and President of International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Ireland. He has previously served as EU Ambassador to the United States (2004-2009) and as Vice-President of the EPP. He has held a number of top posts in the Irish government, including Minister for Finance, Minister for Industry and Energy and Minister for Trade, Commerce and Tourism.



Olof Ehrenkrona

Olof Ehrenkrona is an Ambassador and Senior Adviser for the Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs, where he deals with issues related to globalisation. He is also a Policy Adviser at the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation. In the early 1990s, during the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transformation of Eastern and Central Europe, he was Head of Policy Planning in the Swedish Prime Minister's Office.



Jos J.A.M. van Gennip

Jos J.A.M. van Gennip is President of the Socires Foundation, Chairman at the Food First Coalition and member of the General Council at Inter Press Service (IPS). Previously, he was a member of the Upper House of the Dutch Parliament and worked as Deputy Director General at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the Economic Committee of NATO.



Martti Häikiö

Martti Häikiö is a full-time historian and Adjunct Professor at the University of Helsinki, Institute of Political and Social History since 1978. During the past ten years he has published six books about the various aspects of telecommunications and concentrate in the interplay of innovation, regulation and business especially during the third industrial revolution. At the moment he is working on the biography of P. E. Svinhufvud, first Head of State of independent Finland.



Mart Laar

Mart Laar is a member of the International Council of the Human Rights Foundation, Honorary Chairman of Pro Patria and Res Publica Union (IRL) and served as Estonian Minister of Defence from April 2011 to May 2012. He previously served as Prime Minister (1992–1994 and 1999–2002) and member of the Estonian Parliament, Riigikogu. In 2006 he was the recipient of the Cato Institute's Milton Friedman Prize for Advancing Liberty.



Paweł Śpiewak

Paweł Śpiewak is a Polish sociologist, historian, author and former politician. He is a Professor of Sociology at Warsaw University and Director of the Jewish Historical Institute. In 2005 he was elected to the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish Parliament, but he did not seek reelection in 2007.



Žiga Turk

Žiga Turk is a former Slovenian Minister for Education, Science, Culture and Sports. He was Professor and Chair in Construction Informatics at the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering at the University of Ljubljana. From 2007 to 2008, Mr Turk was Minister for Growth and National Coordinator for the Lisbon Strategy. From 2008 to 2010 he served as Secretary General of the Reflection Group on the Future of Europe.

R

Research Associates

By building a mutually supportive and cooperative network of researchers, the CES is continuously improving its capacity to provide a timely response to the demand for expert analysis in different fields. The Research Associates are politically like-minded academics who can provide research papers, short analyses and blogs and who are also capable of offering pertinent advice regarding current affairs.



Filippo L. Calciano

Filippo L. Calciano is the Director of the International Cooperation Department at the Luigi Sturzo Institute, founder and managing partner of Urania Capital Advisors and Professor of Economics at the University of Rome. He holds a Ph.D. and a masters degree in Economics from the Centre for Operations Research and Econometrics (Louvain University) and the University of Pennsylvania.



Svante E. Cornell

Svante E. Cornell is Director of the Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP). He is Research Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program, the Joint Center operated by ISDP in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University. Mr Cornell holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University, a B.Sc. with High Honor in International Relations from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara and an honorary doctoral degree from the Behmenyar Institute of Law and Philosophy of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.



Hans Geeroms

Prof Dr Hans Geeroms holds a Ph.D. in Economics from KU Leuven and works at the Research Department of the National Bank of Belgium, where he is an expert in European economic policy. Prior to this, he worked for the European Commission on EU enlargement and as adviser for EU affairs for several Belgian Prime Ministers. He is also a Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges.



Florian Hartleb

Florian Hartleb was until May 2012 a Research Fellow at the CES and is currently a lecturer at the University of Bonn and the University for Politics in Munich. He studied political science, law and psychology and subsequently worked as a consultant in the German parliament (Bundestag), as a Research Associate at Chemnitz University of Technology and as a Professor for political management at a private university in Berlin.



Katarína Králiková

Katarína Králiková is a diplomat with the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Previously she was a CES Research Officer and Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the Centre's policy journal, the 'European View'. During her work for the CES she focused mainly on foreign policy issues. Prior to joining the CES, Katarína worked in the European Parliament in the Directorate-General for Internal Policies in Brussels.



Michalis Peglis

Michalis Peglis is Deputy Director for EU and International Affairs at the office of the Prime Minister of Greece. He is a Ph.D. candidate, holds a masters degree on Public Administration and Public Policy from The London School of Economics and Political Science and a bachelors degree with distinction on Political Science and International Relations from Panteion University of Athens.



Nikolaos Tzifakis

Nikolaos Tzifakis is Assistant Professor of International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the University of Peloponnese. His research interest focus on International Relations, EU external policies and Balkan politics. His recent publications include articles in 'Cambridge Review of International Affairs', 'Ethnopolitics', 'European Foreign Affairs Review', 'Global Society' and 'International Journal', amongst others.

Staff 2012



Tomi Huhtanen
Director
th@thinkingeurope.eu



Roland Freudenstein
Deputy Director
Head of Research
rf@thinkingeurope.eu



José Luis Fontalba
Head of Communications
jlf@thinkingeurope.eu



Panos Tasiopoulos
Project Manager
pt@thinkingeurope.eu



Vít Novotný
Senior Research Officer
vn@thinkingeurope.eu



Stefaan De Corte
Senior Research Officer
sdc@thinkingeurope.eu



Ingrid Habets
Research Officer
ih@thinkingeurope.eu



Ioana Lung
Communications and Marketing Officer
il@thinkingeurope.eu



Sara Pini
Project Officer
spi@thinkingeurope.eu



Bernada Cunj
Administrator
bc@thinkingeurope.eu



Diana Wasilewska
Administrator
dwa@thinkingeurope.eu



John Lageson
Project Assistant
jl@thinkingeurope.eu



Ana María Martín
Project Assistant
am@thinkingeurope.eu



Visiting Fellows

The Centre for European Studies has been active on a wide range of political issues with a particular emphasis on European policy-oriented studies. Therefore, each year it offers Visiting Fellow positions of 6-12 months to dynamic, motivated and innovative individuals with academic credentials.

During 2012 there were three Visiting Fellows at CES:



Florian Hartleb
German

Political scientist specialised in political parties, populism and extremism in the EU.



Henna Hopia
Finnish

Policy analyst, journalist and party activist, focusing on EU politics and foreign, security and defence policy.

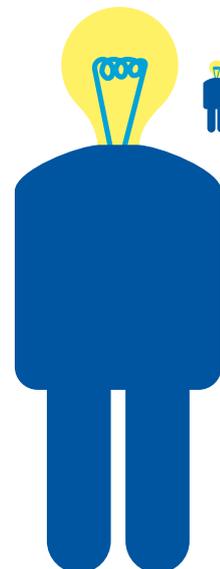


Lucia Vesnic-Alujevic
Croatian & Serbian

Communications expert, specialised in political communication, European politics and social media.

Individual Members

- Wilfried Martens • Antonio López-Istúriz
- Yannis G. Valinakis • Joseph Daul • Filippo Terruso
- João Marques de Almeida
- Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb
- Miguel Papí-Boucher
- Kostas Sasmatzoglou
- Jacob Lund Nielsen
- Nicolás Pascual de la Parte
- Kristóf Altusz • Antti Timonen
- Timothy Beyer Helm • Marianne Thyssen



Internships

The CES offers internships of three to six months for university graduates and young researchers from Europe and world-wide. The internship programme is intended to provide the trainees with the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of European affairs and to have close insights into the daily work of the European institutions in Brussels.

It is focused on immersing the successful candidates in the short-term and long-term policy research and other activities of the Centre: organising meetings and conferences, preparing reports and analysis, editing publications including the 'European View', updating the website, blog and databases, communicating with the European People's Party in policy research and other activities, and liaising with officials from the European Institutions.



In 2012 our interns were:

Rodrigo Castro (Spain); **Andraž Kastelic** (Slovenia);
Nada Kolvalcikova (Slovakia); **John Lageson** (United States);
Ana María Martín (Spain); **Kate O'Sullivan** (Ireland);
Vesta Ratkevičiūtė (Lithuania); **Santiago Robles** (Spain);
Eline Storeide (Norway); **Corina Suceveanu** (Romania);
Andrea Vodanović (Croatia).

M

ember Foundations



Academy for the Development of a Democratic Environment

Akkademja għall-Izvilupp ta' Ambjent Demokratiku (AZAD)

Casa Pereira 224, Republic Street, Valletta, Malta

Phone: +356.21.247.515; +356.21.234.884 | Fax: +356.21.220.496

info@azad-malta.com



Amaro da Costa Institute

Instituto Amaro da Costa (IDL)

Rua do Patrocínio, 128 – A, 1350-232 Lisbon, Portugal

Phone: +351.21.346.1449

www.idl.pt | geral@idl.pt



Anton Tunega Foundation

Nadácia Antona Tunegu (NAT)

Bajkalská 25, SK-821 01 Bratislava, Slovakia

Phone: +421.908.334.344

www.tunega.sk | marek.degro@tunega.sk



CDA Research Institute

Wetenschappelijk Instituut voor het CDA (WICDA)

Postbus 30453, 2500 GL The Hague, The Netherlands

Phone: +31.70.342.4874 | Fax: +31.70.392.6004

www.cda.nl/wi | wi@cda.nl



CEDER Study Centre of CD&V

CEDER Studiecentrum CD&V (CEDER)

Wetstraat 89, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32.2.238 38 87 | Fax: +32.2.238 38 80

ceder.cdenv.be/ceder | ceder@cdenv.be



Croatian Statehood Foundation

Zaklada Hrvatskog Državnog Zavjeta (ZHDZ)

Gundulićeva 21a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Phone: +385.1.4854.555 | Fax: +385.1.4854.439

www.zhdz.hr | zaklada.hdz@zg.t-com.hr | srecko.prusina@zhdz.hr



De Gasperi Foundation

Fondazione De Gasperi (FDG)

Piazza San Lorenzo in Lucina 26, 00186 Rome, Italy

Phone: +39.06.68.33.592

www.fondazione degasperini.it | fondazione@fondazione degasperini.it



Dr. Jože Pučnik Institute

Inštitut dr. Jožeta Pučnika (IJP)

Hribarjevo nabrežje 13, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Phone: +386.1.425.3087 | Fax: +386.1.425.3089

www.ijpucnik.si | info@ijpucnik.si



European Academy for Democracy

Evropská akademie pro demokracii (EAD)

Karlovo nám. 317/5, 128 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic

Phone: +420.602.646.755 | www.ead.cz | akademie@ead.cz



Foundation for a Civic Hungary

Polgári Magyarországért Alapítvány (PMA)

Pauler u. 11, 1013 Budapest, Hungary

Phone: +36.1.391.4880 | Fax: +36.1.391.4889

www.szpma.hu | alapitvany@szpma.hu



Foundation for Social Research and Analysis

Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales (FAES)

C/ María de Molina 40 - 6, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Phone: +34.91.576.6857

www.fundacionfaes.org | fundacionfaes@fundacionfaes.org



Hanns Seidel Foundation

Hanns Seidel Stiftung (HSS)

Lazarettstraße 33, 80636 Munich, Germany

Phone: +49.89.125.80 | Fax: +49.89.125.83.56

www.hss.de | info@hss.de



Høyre Study Centre

Høyres Studieforbund (HS)

Stortingsgt 20, Postboks 1536 Vika, 0117 Oslo, Norway

Phone: +47.22.829.171 | Fax: +47.22.829.088

www.aftenskolen.no | aftenskolen@aftenskolen.no



Institute for Eurodemocracy Glafcos Clerides

Ινστιτούτο Ευρωδημοκρατίας Γλαύκος Κληρίδης (EGC)

5 Ioannis Clerides str., 1070 Nicosia, Cyprus

Phone: +357.22.883.139 | Fax: +357.22.752.751

www.insteurodemocracy.eu | insteurodemocracy@cytanet.com.cy



Institute for Modern Slovakia

Inštitút pre moderné Slovensko (IPMS)

Šancova ul.70, 81105 Bratislava, Slovakia

Phone: +421.2.572.04.620

www.ipms.sk | ipms@ipms.sk



Institute for Popular Studies

Institutul de Studii Populare (ISP)

Str. Alecu Russo nr. 13-19 | Ap. 3, Sector 2, 020522 Bucharest, Romania

Phone/Fax: +40.31.10.76.645

www.isp.org.ro | office@isp.org.ro



Institute of Democratic Politics

Demokratinės Politikos Institutas (DPI)

Vasingtono a. 1, 01108 Vilnius, Lithuania

Phone : +370.5.261.5424 | Fax : +370.5.278.4914

www.dpi.lt | info@dpi.lt



Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation

Jarl Hjalmarson Stiftelsen (JHS)

Stora Nygatan 30, Box 2080, 10312 Stockholm, Sweden

Phone: +46.8.676.8000 | Fax: +46.8.676.8086

www.hjalmarsonstiftelsen.se | hjalmarsonstiftelsen@moderat.se



Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

Klingelhöferstraße 23, 10785 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49.30.269.960

www.kas.de | zentrale-berlin@kas.de



Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy

Ινστιτούτο Δημοκρατίας Κωνσταντίνος Καραμανλής (KKID)

18, Rigillis Str., 10674 Athens, Greece

Phone: +30.210.725.7495 | Fax: +30.210.725.7510

www.idkaramanlis.gr | info@idkaramanlis.gr



Kós Károly Academy

Kós Károly Akademia (KKA)

Str. Ulciorului nr. 4, 540099 Targu Mures, Romania

Phone/Fax: +40.265.210.020

www.koskarolyakademia.ro | koskarolyakademia@gmail.com



Luigi Sturzo Institute

Istituto Luigi Sturzo (ILS)

Via delle Coppelle 35, 00186 Rome, Italy

Phone: +39.06.684.04.21

www.sturzo.it | infopoint@sturzo.it



Miquel Coll i Alentorn Institute for Humanistic Studies

Institut d'Estudis Humanístics Miquel Coll i Alentorn (INEHCA)

Carrer de Nàpols 35-39, 08018 Barcelona, Spain

Phone: +34.93.486.97.54 | Fax: +34.93.486.41.92

www.inehca.cat | secretaria@inehca.cat



National Educational Association

Kansallinen Sivistysliitto (KANSIO)

Kansakoulukuja 3 2.krs, 00100 Helsinki, Finland

Phone: +358.207.488.488

www.kansio.fi | kansioposti@kansio.fi



Political Academy of the Austrian People's Party

Politische Akademie der ÖVP (PolAk)

Tivoligasse 73, 1120 Vienna, Austria

Phone: +43.1.814.200

www.polak.at | akademie@polak.at



Pro Patria Institute

Koolituskeskus Pro Patria

Kivisilla 4-9, 10145 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372.773.4201 | Fax: +372.773.4207

www.propatria.ee | kaja.villem@irl.ee

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Research

and

Publications

- Research
- Regular Publications
- Collaborative Publications
- Other Publications

As the political foundation of the EPP, the Centre for European Studies monitors, analyses and contributes to the debate relating to the policies of the EU and relevant for both the expert level and for the wider European public. The six main research themes cover a wide range of specific political issues and stemming from these themes, the CES produces research papers and policy briefs, as well as organises events and conferences.

The first research theme, **party structures and EU institutions**, aims to explain EU policies to voters and covers matters such as the arguments, methods and funding of populist parties.

Economic and social policies is the second theme and focuses on the main issues related to economic growth and welfare. The CES aims to enhance the understanding of the structural elements and actors of the European and global economy.

Having a clear picture of the multipolar global structure constitutes a main priority. Thus, the CES gives special attention to investigating developments on a global level. The third theme, **EU foreign policy**, covers topics like the Arab revolutions, the European integration of the Western Balkans and Turkey's transformation and its implications for the EU.

The fourth CES research theme, **environment and energy**, aims to analyse the developments in environmental and energy policies, which have become a challenge for Europe's political and economic role on the world stage. Energy security and fighting climate change have become important research priorities.

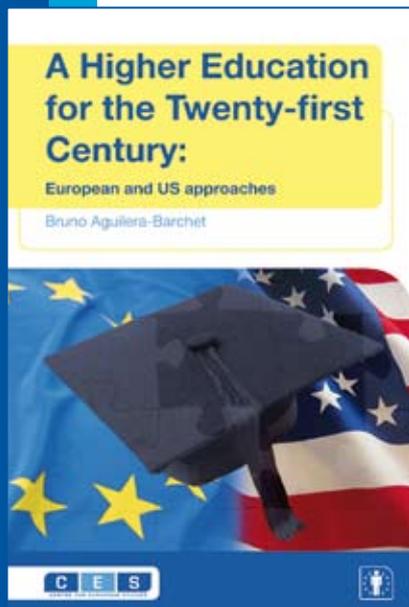
In the context of an increasingly multiethnic society, monitoring cultural, religious and social developments is essential. The fifth research theme, **ethics, values and religion**, considers issues of importance to Europe's identity like political Islam in the EU and interreligious dialogue.

The sixth theme involves **new societal challenges**, concerning demographics, education policy, domestic security and, above all, the relationship between the Internet and modern society.

In 2012, the Centre for European Studies has continued with an ambitious research plan aimed at the production of research papers with strong emphasis on policy recommendations. The CES has also produced policy briefs and flashes, which are shorter papers reacting to current events.

All research papers and policy briefs are available at www.thinkingeurope.eu

Research Papers

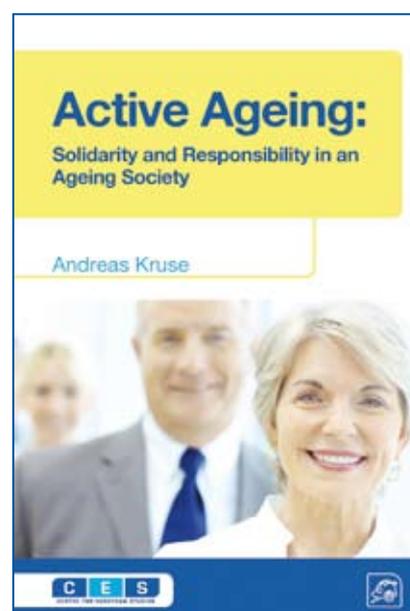


A Higher Education for the Twenty-first Century: European and US Approaches

By [Bruno Aguilera-Barchet](#). Europeans and Americans have a lot to learn from one another when it comes to higher education. This paper analyses the strengths and weaknesses of both systems and assesses how each can benefit from the other.

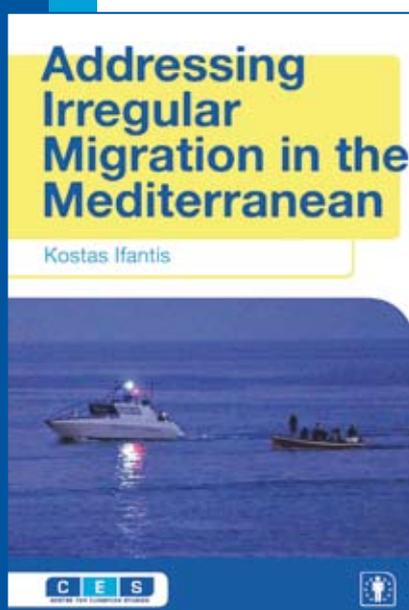
Active Ageing: Solidarity and Responsibility in an Ageing Society

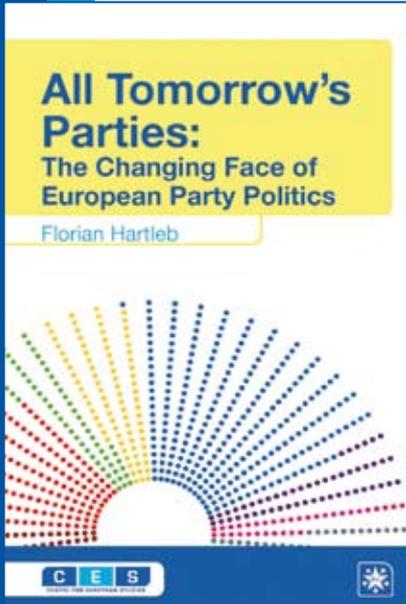
By [Andreas Kruse](#). This paper argues that the traditional view of ageing is gradually being replaced by a new perspective, one with an increased focus on older people's capabilities, resources and potentials. It encourages a stronger focus on the productive participation of older people in political and public discourse.



Addressing Irregular Migration in the Mediterranean

By [Kostas Ifantis](#). Migratory pressures on southern European borders pose an enormous challenge to EU policymakers. The paper looks at how Frontex, and the EU more generally, can better coordinate its maritime border control policy, while also respecting human rights and the rule of law.



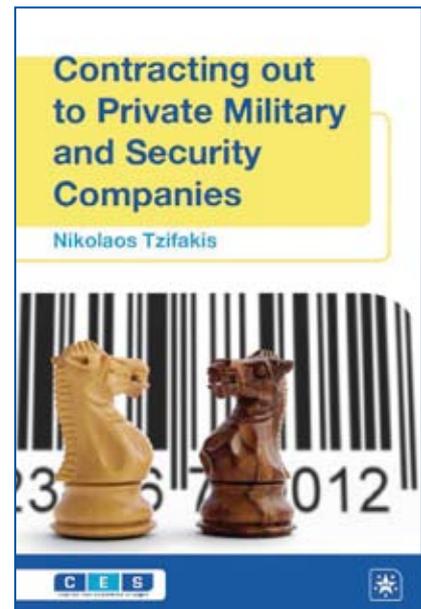


All Tomorrow's Parties: The Changing Face of European Party Politics

By [Florian Hartleb](#). Political parties are continually under pressure due to changes in society. Europe is now on the threshold of a new environment that is changing the face of political parties themselves. The paper explores this changing framework for traditional political parties and examines an emerging new breed of parties.

Contracting out to Private Military and Security Companies

By [Nikolaos Tzifakis](#). This paper argues that the implications of outsourcing security services to private agencies are neither a positive nor negative phenomenon. However, proper regulation of private military and security services is essential.



Contracting out to Private Military and Security Companies

Nikolaos Tzifakis



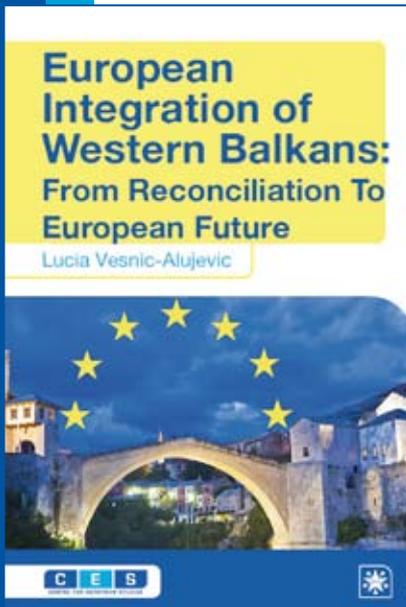
Dealing with a Rising Power: Turkey's Transformation and its Implications for the EU

By [Svante Cornell](#), [Gerald Knaus](#) and [Manfred Scheich](#). This paper analyses the role of Turkey and the Justice and Development Party (AKP). The authors advocate continued EU engagement with Turkey, irrespective of the progress of accession negotiations.



Dealing with a Rising Power: Turkey's Transformation and its Implications for the EU

Svante Cornell, Gerald Knaus,
Manfred Scheich

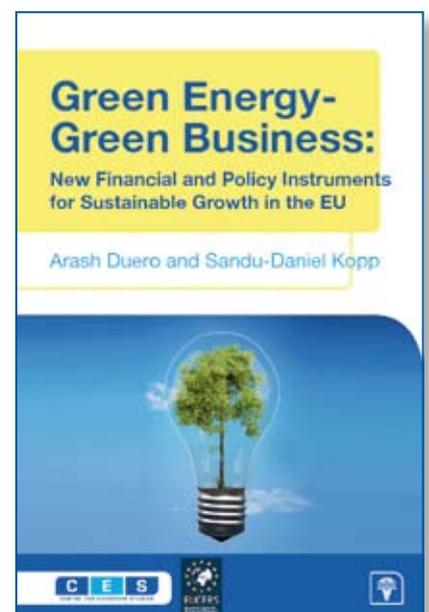


European Integration of Western Balkans: From Reconciliation to European Future

By [Lucia Vesnic-Alujevic](#). The paper describes the efforts of Western Balkan countries to join the European Union and the reconciliation initiatives carried out between these countries. The promotion of dialogue, grass-roots movements, civil society and cross-border projects is further needed in order to tackle unresolved problems in the region.

Green Energy - Green Business: New Financial and Policy Instruments for Sustainable Growth in the EU

By [Arash Duero](#) and [Sandu-Daniel Kopp](#). This paper examines the current state of renewable energy in the EU. It outlines the evolution of the EU's renewable energy policy, assesses the current status of renewables in Europe's transformation towards a green economy and analyses the challenges that the Union currently faces in this effort.



Green Energy- Green Business:

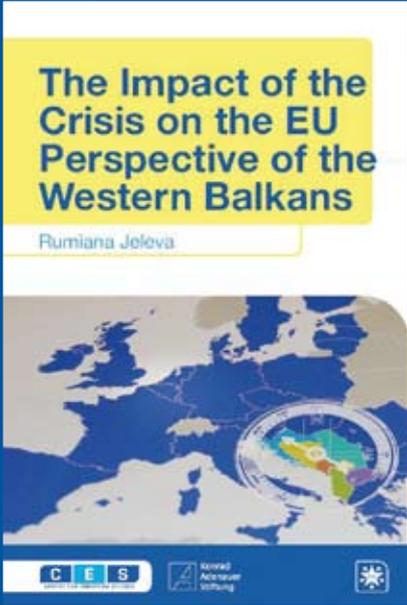
New Financial and Policy Instruments
for Sustainable Growth in the EU

Arash Duero and Sandu-Daniel Kopp



Ideas to Actions: A Springeneration for EU-MENA Cooperation in Education

By [Hanan Rezk](#) and [Katarína Králiková](#). This research paper analyses the results of the Springeneration survey carried out by the CES during 2012 and puts forward recommendations for EU-MENA cooperation in the field of education.

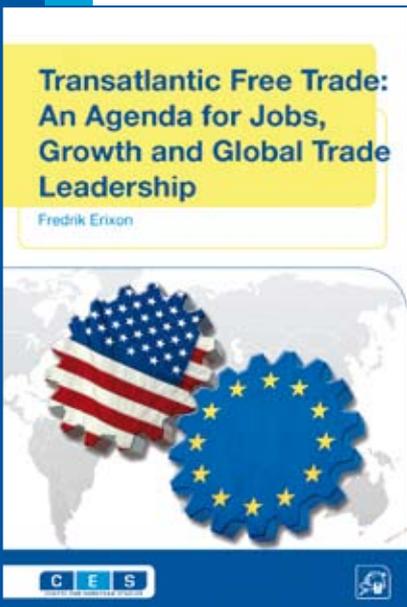
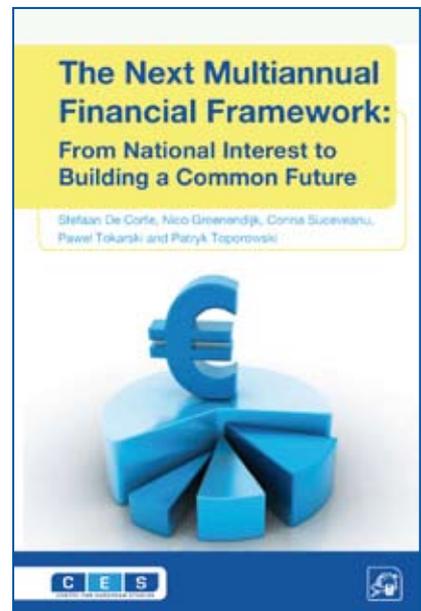


The Impact of the Crisis on the EU Perspective of the Western Balkans

By [Rumiana Jeleva](#). This study shows that reducing the negative influence of the crisis on the Western Balkan countries, while improving their economic situations, is vital to popular support for their further European integration.

The Next Multiannual Financial Framework: From National Interest to Building a Common Future

By [Stefaan De Corte](#), [Nico Groenendijk](#), [Corina Suceveanu](#), [Pawel Tokarski](#) and [Patrik Toporowski](#). This publication describes the European Commission’s proposal, the European Parliament’s resolutions and the positions of two Members of the Council on the Multiannual Financial Framework and sheds light on where the positions differ and where there is common ground and room for compromise.



Transatlantic Free Trade: An Agenda for Jobs, Growth and Global Trade Leadership

By [Fredrik Erixon](#). This paper takes stock of the key arguments against a transatlantic free trade agreement between the EU and the US and concludes that they are no longer convincing. Therefore, it is time to launch negotiations for a deal, which would generate significant economic gains and a new dynamic in the world trading system.

P Policy Briefs

Democracy and Legitimacy in an Economic Union

By [Rodrigo Castro Nacarino](#), [Stefaan De Corte](#) and [Roland Freudenstein](#). This policy brief focuses on the impact that the new steps being taken towards economic integration will have on the democratic legitimacy and accountability of the European institutions. It puts up for debate both short and long term proposals for tackling what the authors believe will be an increased democratic deficit.



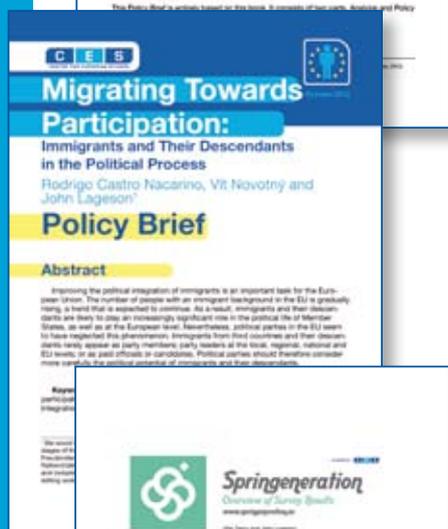
Immigration and Integration in the European Union

By [Vít Novotný](#). This policy brief is based on the book 'Opening the Door? Immigration and Integration in the European Union', produced in 2012 by the CES in cooperation with its member foundations with the aim of shedding light on the ongoing debate on immigration and integration, informing national and European policies and highlighting areas of EU-wide importance.



Migrating Towards Participation: Immigrants and Their Descendants in the Political Process

By [Rodrigo Castro Nacarino](#), [Vít Novotný](#) and [John Lageson](#). Improving the political integration of immigrants is an important task for the EU. The number of people with an immigrant background is gradually rising. Political parties in the EU should consider more carefully the political potential of this population, since immigrants and their descendants are likely to play an increasingly significant role in national and European political life.

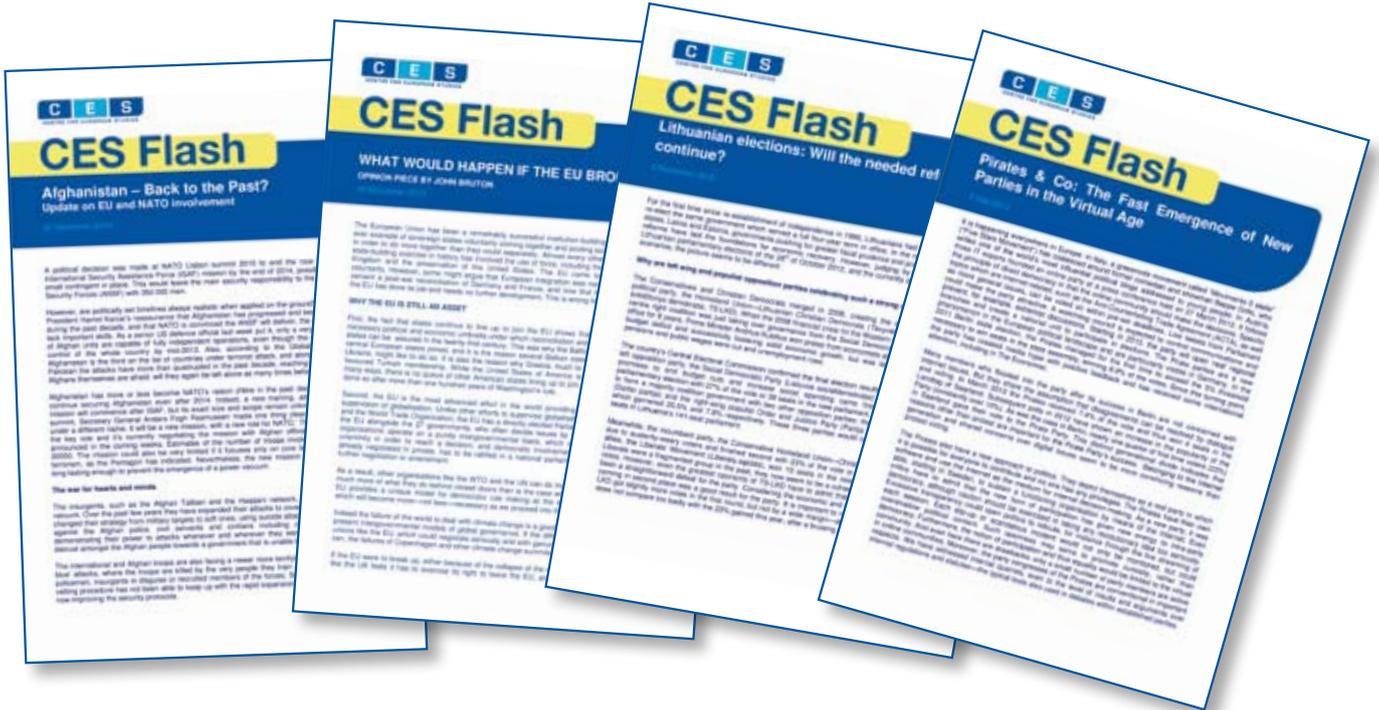


Springeneration: Overview of Survey Results

By [Ville Tapio](#) and [John Lageson](#). This policy brief offers an overview of the results from the CES's latest public opinion initiative, the 'Springeneration' survey, which was an online forum for gathering ideas and feedback from people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) about how to forge a new partnership with Europe following the Arab Spring.

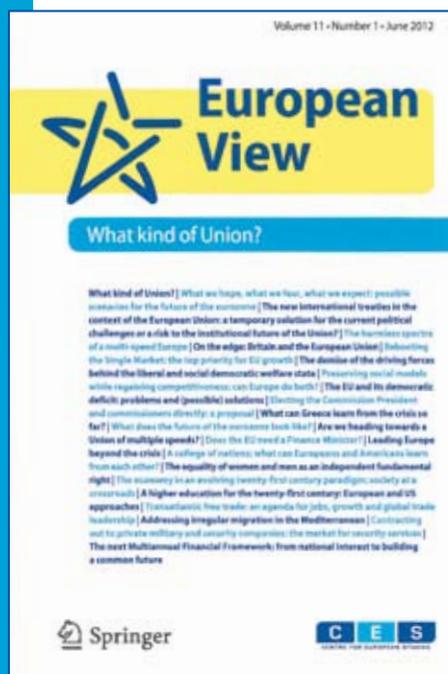


- Afghanistan – Back to the Past? Update on EU and NATO Involvement
- What Would Happen if the EU Broke Up?
- Lithuanian Elections: Will the Needed Reforms Continue?
- Pirates & Co: The Fast Emergence of New Parties in the Virtual Age



E uropean View

The *European View*, the policy journal of the Centre for European Studies, serves as the intellectual platform for politicians, opinion makers and academics to tackle contemporary themes of European politics, focusing on one specific topic in each issue.



What Kind of Union?

The Spring 2012 issue, entitled *What Kind of Union?*, analyses the prospects and the challenges that European institutions face in the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis. This issue included important contributions from prominent authors including [Wolfgang Wessels](#), [Carlo Casini](#), [Steven Hill](#), [Malcolm Harbour](#), [Marek Gora](#), [Frank Decker](#) and [Hillie van de Streek](#).



Values in the Twenty-first Century

The Autumn 2012 issue was devoted to *Values in the Twenty-first Century*, providing an analysis of the guiding values which have driven European integration from the establishment of the European Communities until the latest expansion into Central and Eastern Europe. The rise of new challenges for Europe implies that maintaining and reinforcing these values could lead to a more modern, competitive and prosperous Union. This issue includes articles from prominent figures including [Jos van Gennip](#), [Mario Mauro](#), [John Bruton](#), [Pascale Joannin](#), [Elmar Brok](#) and [Mart Laar](#).

Editor-in-Chief: [Tomi Huhtanen](#)

Assistant to Editor-in-Chief: [Ingrid Habets](#)

European Factbook

The European Factbook 2012:
The European People's Party and Centre-Right Politics



The 'European Factbook' is a regular publication, providing a snapshot of the centre-right political family each year.

It is first and foremost a tool, a resource through which one can become acquainted with both national centre-right political parties and active participants in research, communication and policy formulation.

The European Factbook enforces the commitment of the Centre for European Studies to contribute to the awareness of the centre-right's policies among European citizens and decision makers alike.

The 2012 edition includes the latest updates and information from both European and national level politics. The publication offers insight into the functioning of the European People's Party (EPP) family as a whole. It includes details about not only the Party itself, but also the EPP groups in the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assemblies.

In promoting intellectual liberty, raising awareness and facilitating the growth of EU politics from the perspective of ideology and the central values of the EPP and its centre-right partners, the European Factbook is an essential reference tool.

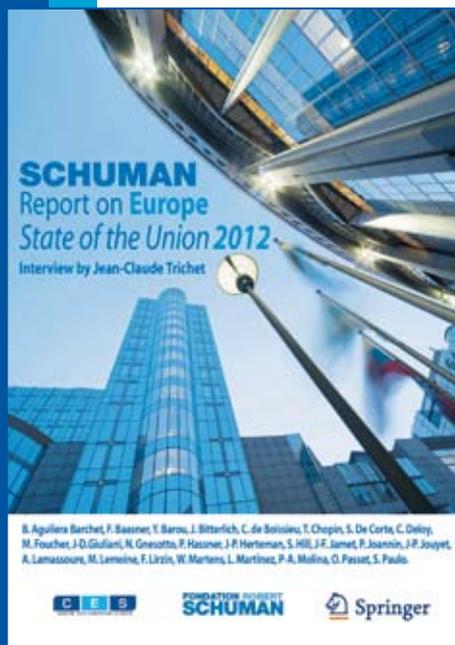
Editor-in-Chief: [Kostas Sasmatzoglou](#)

Collaborative Publications



Opening the Door? Immigration and Integration in the European Union

Migration into the EU and the integration of immigrants are matters that will be decisive for the future of Europe. The Centre for European Studies and its member foundations have created this in-depth study of immigration and integration policies in countries across the EU with the aim of assisting experts, politicians and other stakeholders with the adjustment of immigration and integration policies so that they are suitable for twenty-first century Europe.



Schuman Report on Europe - State of the Union 2012

The Schuman Report on the State of the Union, by the CES and the Robert Schuman Foundation (FRS), captures the challenges ahead for the EU through original contributions from well respected authors and includes statistical analysis.

This edition is devoted to the means to implement in order to overcome the crisis and tackles issues such as energy policies, the emerging European social model, European values in the new global context and the role of the EU in the MENA region in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. The 2012 edition also offers the reader an exclusive interview with Jean-Claude Trichet, former President of the European Central Bank.

The publication is both a reference guide, combining contributions from high-level scholars and politicians, and a tool offering essential information on and an analysis of European politics and economics.

Providing a statistical overview and graphical presentation, 'State of the Union 2012' covers all the major themes Europe is dealing with, offers a variety of processed data opinion polls, and is an essential publication for understanding the Europe of tomorrow.

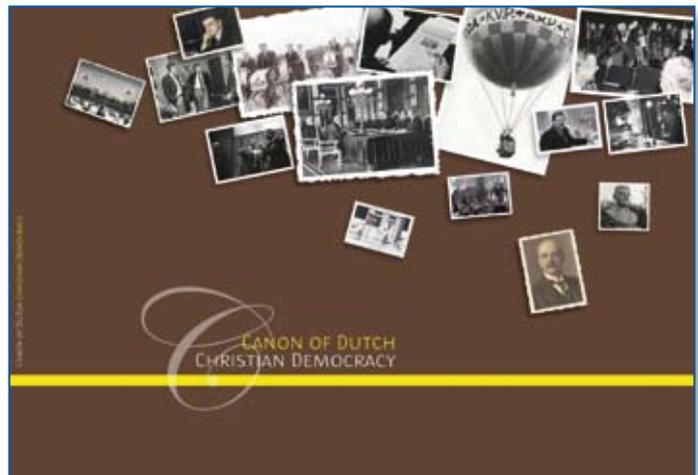


Bourgeois Virtues: The Aristocrat, the Ascetic, the Peasant, and the Bourgeoisie

As this publication by the CES in cooperation with the National Educational Association (KANSIO) argues, European electorates are squeezed between austerity they don't like and stimulus they can't afford. Economic growth would provide the easy way out. But how can it be achieved if economic activities are restricted and success is not appreciated? The Bourgeoisie founded the modern world and made it grow out of pre-capitalist poverty. As bourgeois virtues, such as prudence in the daily business of life and courage in investing were dignified, entrepreneurs were granted freedom to innovate. However, the bourgeois virtues, values and freedom have always been resisted and despised by powerful counterforces. The question of growth or stagnation can be described as a struggle between political mentalities: the bourgeois against the aristocrat, ascetic and peasant mentalities.

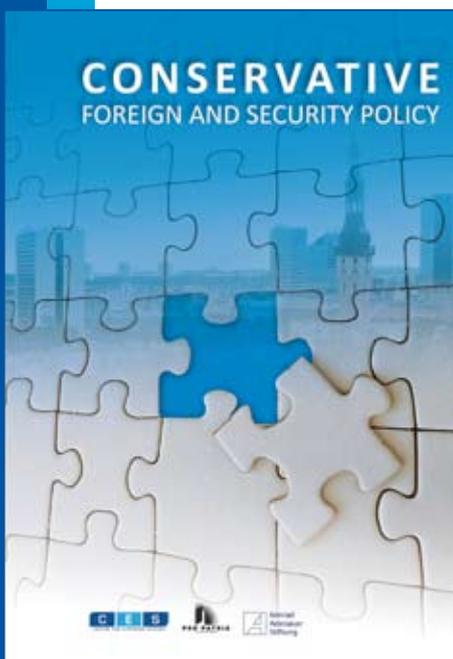
Canon of Dutch Christian Democracy

The CES and the CDA Research Institute published a book titled 'Canon of Dutch Christian Democracy'. Christian Democracy in the Netherlands has a rich history that seems to be a source of inspiration to many. This book offers a historical background to its foundation, formulation and evolution from its establishment to the present, and the aim of this publication is to be a source of inspiration and vision for future generations.



Conservative Foreign and Security Policy

This collection of articles by the CES, in cooperation with the Pro Patria Institute and Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), subjects security – inevitably a central, existential concern for every state, nation and individual – to a more multifaceted treatment. The aim of this collection is to provide a new impetus for stronger cooperation and it brings together a wide variety of European voices pursuing a common goal. This is very optimistic, but it is also necessary, as we cannot afford long and cumbersome processes, especially in the field of security policy.



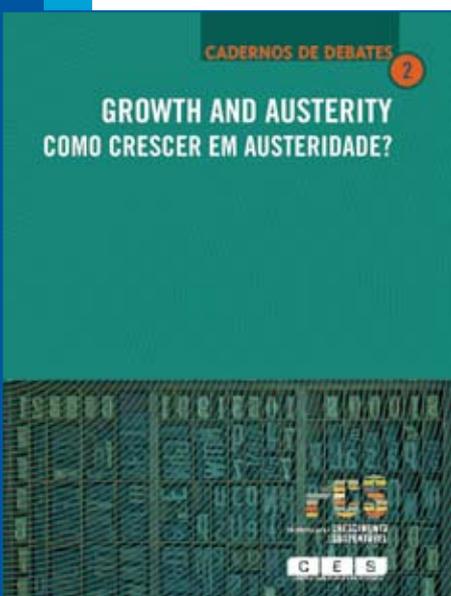
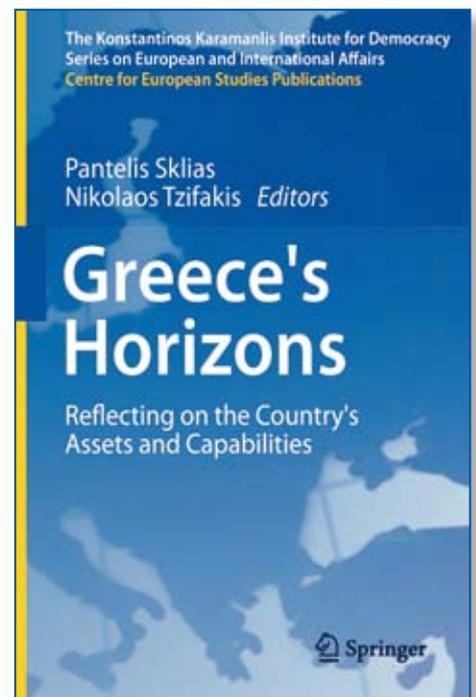


Europe and the Arab Revolutions: A New Vision for Democracy and Human Rights

The CES in cooperation with the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), published the research paper 'Europe and the Arab Revolutions: A New Vision for Democracy and Human Rights'. The study argues that the EU should focus above all on the development of legitimate and accountable governments in post-revolutionary countries in the Arab world, creating the building blocks and background conditions for fair and inclusive politics along with providing support to human rights through transparent diplomacy and support for civil society.

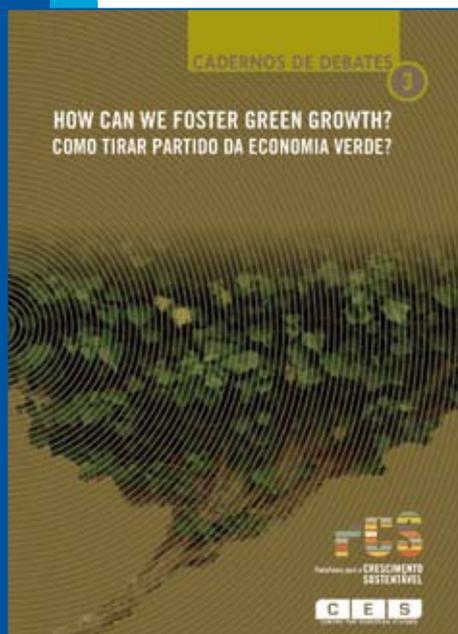
Greece's Horizons: Reflecting on the Country's Assets and Capabilities

Policymakers, analysts and the media have daily debated the course of the Greek economy while prescribing ways to move forward. This book, by the CES and the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (KKID), progressively moves from an analysis of the causes of the crisis and the policy response so far, to a debate on some of the country's advantages and capabilities that should underpin its new development model and propel the return to growth. The book seeks to provide motivation and inspiration for change by indicating some of the economic sectors where Greece maintains a comparative advantage.



Growth and Austerity

This joint publication by the CES and the Platform for a Sustainable Growth (PCS) summarises the proceedings of a conference organised in Lisbon on 'How can we simultaneously foster growth and consolidate our public finance?' The aim of the event and this follow-up publication was to identify policies and measures to foster sustainable growth in Portugal. The main conclusion is that in addition to fiscal consolidation, the country also needs to focus on structural reforms and selective and reproductive investments on knowledge economy, green economy and industrial policy. This will foster an innovation-led economy.



How can we Foster Green Growth?

Produced by the CES and the Platform for a Sustainable Growth (PCS), this publication summarises the proceedings of a conference organised in Lisbon on 'How can we foster green growth?' The aim of the event and the follow-up publication was to identify the role green economy can play to achieve sustainable growth in Europe in general and Portugal in particular.

Montenegro Democracy Index 2012

The CES in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) and the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights published a joint book that presents the results of a collaborative study titled 'Montenegro Democracy Index 2012'. The study aims to examine the state of democracy in Montenegro through the analysis of different social areas: rule of law, education, economic freedom and participation, media, national and religious minorities and the social position of women and people with disabilities.



SDKÚ-DS: Political Party of Reforms and Modernization of Slovakia

For 12 years, the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union-Democratic Party has been present in the Slovak political scene. It has become one of the major symbols of the modernisation of the country in the early years of the 21st century. With this publication, the CES and the Institute for Modern Slovakia (IPMS) aspire to increase the credibility of centre-right political parties in Slovakia and other European countries by emphasising the responsibility of individuals, who need to take an active role by participating in the processes and developments that are going on at the social, political and economic levels.

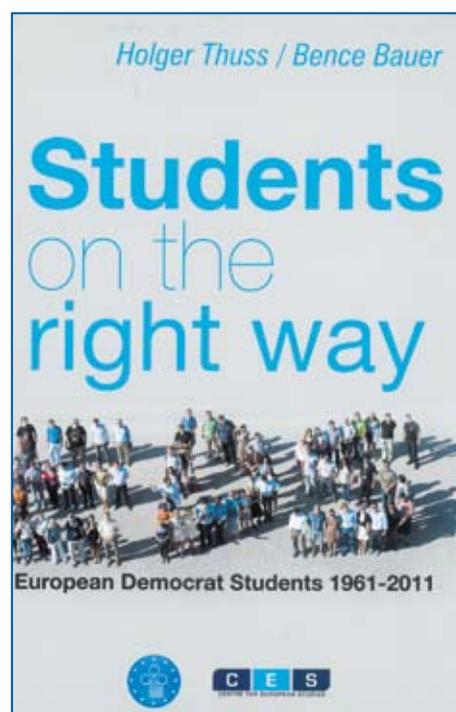


Social Media - The New Power of Political Influence

What do the revoking of the results of the fraudulent 2009 Moldavian elections, the M-15 movement with their camps and demonstrations in Spain in 2011, the 2011 revolutions of the so-called Arab Spring and the 2011 'Occupy Wall Street' camps have in common? A shared feature amongst them has been the strong use of social media in the organisation of such movements as well as in the mobilisation of different agents, but also the solid exploitation of social media in their objectives and use in communication. This book, by the CES in cooperation with the National Educational Association (KANSIO), explores the development and use of social media in influencing politics and society.

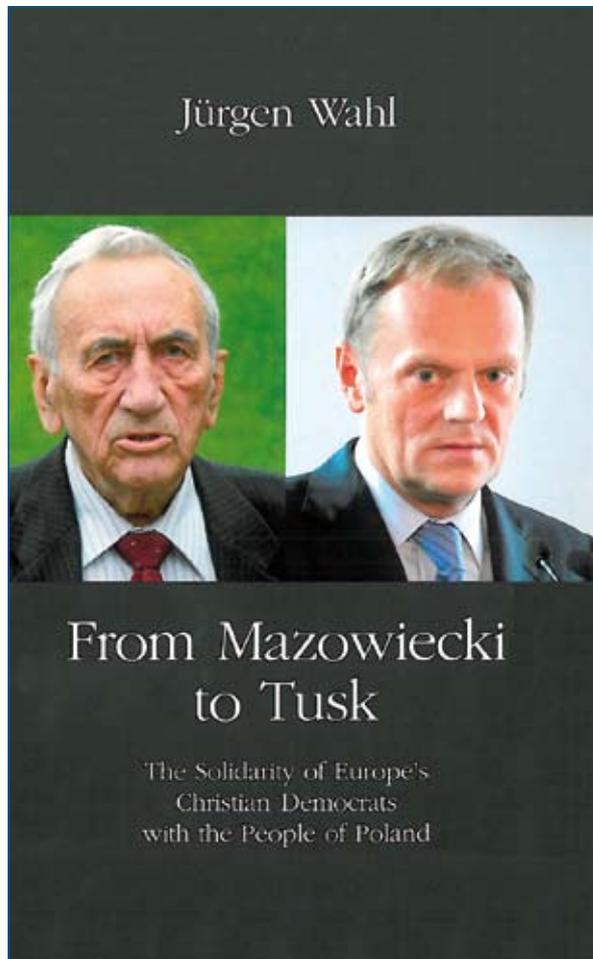
Students on the Right Way: European Democrat Students 1961 – 2011

In 1961, a group of five students founded 'The International Christian-Democratic and Conservative Student Union'. In 2011, this organisation celebrated its 50th anniversary as 'European Democrat Students' (EDS), becoming the biggest organisation of youngsters in Europe. This book, by the Centre for European Studies and the EDS, iterates not only the complete history of EDS, but also describes and interprets the various reasons for its existence.



United by One Conviction: The History of the Youth of the European People's Party

On the occasion of its 15th anniversary, the Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP) together with the CES and the EPP have produced this book, focused on the history of YEPP and based on primary written and oral sources. Documents from the YEPP archives have been used, along with a number of interviews with former YEPP Presidents and a number of key figures in YEPP's history that were conducted specifically for the purpose of this publication.



**From Mazowiecki to Tusk:
The Solidarity of Europe's Christian Democrats with the People of Poland**

This book offers the reader an introduction to the history of the EPP's bridge-building in Eastern Europe, in particular Poland, in the years before and after 1989. This sort of bridge-building has not yet been sufficiently recognised as successful 'transnational politics' practised by a political party, in the spirit of European solidarity. Wahl reveals a number of previously unknown facts. He also refutes a few myths, in particular that Social Democrats and Socialist parties were somehow more active than others in their relations with Eastern Europe. With this book Wahl hopes to enable readers to reassess the achievements of Europe's Christian Democrats, taking Poland as an example.

Events

- **CES Events**
- **Common Projects with Member Foundations**
- **Projects with Partners**

Besides the presentations of its research papers and policy briefs, the CES organised a series of events, both in Brussels and all over Europe, with the aim of bringing Europe closer to its citizens.

Some of these events are organised solely by the CES, while others are run in cooperation with its member foundations. These events address the current and most pressing issues in Europe and the world, as well as in the countries where the member foundations are based. The events range from conferences and seminars to research projects, publications and book presentations.

CES Events

- Economic Ideas Forum [38]
- Transatlantic Think Tank Conference [42]
- International Visitors Programme [44]
- Ideas to Actions: A Springgeneration for EU-MENA Cooperation [46]
- CES Academy [48]
- Building Climate Change Institutions: The Case of Environment and Security [50]
- The West and the New Middle East - Europe, America, Israel and the changes in the Middle East and North Africa [51]
- Author's Dinner with Timothy Snyder [52]
- Syria and Middle Eastern Security [53]
- Exchange Programme for Political Parties from the Mediterranean Countries [54]
- Green Energy – Green Business in Europe [55]
- The Impact of the Economic Crisis on the EU perspective of the Western Balkans [56]
- Green and Secure: How to Tackle Flexibility Challenges in an Integrated EU Power Market? [57]
- From Tough Reforms to Eurozone Membership: Latvia's Road to Growth [58]

Common Projects with Member Foundations

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EURODEMOCRACY: A New Beginning in the Arab World: How Can the European Youth Contribute? [61]

FAES: Latin American Visitors Programme [62]

HSS: Immigration, Integration, Asylum: National and European Perspectives [63] | The European Agenda Under the Irish EU-Presidency [64] | The European Integration of the Western Balkans [65]

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IJP: Network of Ideas: Youth for Democracy, Freedom and Development [69]

ILS: Christian Democrat Internationalism. Its Action in Europe and Worldwide From Post-World War II Until the '90s [70]

INEHCA: Vocational Education and Training: Experiences, Best Practices and Challenges for the Future [71]

IPMS: Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution [72]

ISP: Political Management School [73] | Immigration and Integration of Immigrants from the European Perspective [74] | Book Launch: 'Europe: I Struggle, I Overcome' [75]

KANSIO: Digital Democracy: Gadgets and Tweets for a Good Cause? [76] | The German Miracle Bounces Back: Successful Labour Market Reform [77] | Voting in the Hood. Immigrant Voting Behavior at a Glance [77]

KAS: Religion and Politics in Europe [78] | Visions and Wishes for Europe - Shaping the Future of Europe [79] | Intercultural Dialogue – Response to the Challenges of the Interethnic Relations in Bulgaria [80]

KKA: 2012 EU Camp [81]

KKID: Double Challenge: Economic Crisis and Immigration [82] | Europe: More or Less Union? [83] | Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis (The Greek Case) [84]

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PRO PATRIA: Conservative Foreign and Security Policy [88]

WICDA: Canon of Christian Democracy [89]

Projects with Partners

BFPE: Serbia in the Process of Transition [90]

CEA: The Multiannual Financial Framework: From the National Interest Towards a Common Future [91]

PCS: The Role of Think Tanks to Foster a Growth Agenda [92]

ECFR: Europe and the Arab Revolutions: How Can the EU Best Support Democracy and Human Rights? [93]

SAC: Central European Strategic Forum [93]

Economic Ideas Forum



Policymakers, academics and business representatives from across Europe and beyond gathered in Dublin on the 19th-20th April for the third annual Economic Ideas Forum (EIF), organised by the CES. The aim of the EIF is to provide key decision makers, including EU officials, business leaders, ministers and heads of government, an opportunity to offer insights and exchange views on how to overcome economic challenges and build a platform for sustainable economic growth.

[Wilfried Martens](#), President of the CES and the European People's Party (EPP), welcomed the assembled participants and emphasised the importance of the values of solidarity, sustainability, responsibility and fairness in bringing about sustainable growth. He also called for structural reforms to improve Europe's competitiveness and enhanced economic integration. President Martens' opening speech was followed by a keynote address by [Antonio Tajani](#), Vice-President of the European Commission and the EPP.



Panel I: Europe in the World Economy: Winning Opportunities through Stronger Economic Governance



Speakers on the first panel included [Brian Hayes](#), Irish Minister of State at the Department of Finance; [Joachim Pfeiffer](#), CDU/CSU Spokesperson on Economic Policy in the German Bundestag; [Colm McCarthy](#), Lecturer in the School of Economics at University College Dublin; [Peter Nyberg](#), Member of the Irish Commission of Investigation into the Banking Sector; and [Dan O'Brien](#), Economics Editor of the Irish Times.

The speakers covered a wide range of topics, from the importance of creating a robust European financial regulatory system to the need to introduce pro-growth policies and restore confidence in Europe. The panel was moderated by [Roland Freudenstein](#), CES Deputy Director and Head of Research.

Panel II: How Can Europe Bounce Back? The Single Market as the Key to Growth



The panel was moderated by [Peter Ehrlich](#), Brussels Bureau Chief for Financial Times Deutschland, and included contributions from [Anthony Foley](#), Senior Lecturer at Dublin City University Business School; [Eric Loeb](#), Vice President of International External Affairs at AT&T; [Maurice Thompson](#), Vice Chairman of Citigroup in Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and [Raymond Gradus](#), Director of the Dutch CDA Research Institute. The panellists agreed that formulating and implementing policies in order to complete the single market is a difficult, but important process.

[John Bruton](#), former Taoiseach of Ireland, former Ambassador of the European Union to the United States and chair of the EIF Organising Committee, introduced the second panel with a keynote address. Mr Bruton highlighted the benefits of completing the Single Market in the banking, energy and healthcare industries and called upon the EU to do a better job of explaining the benefits of the Single Market.

Panel III: Boosting Competitiveness and Enhancing Social Europe: How to Deliver on Both Fronts?

Europe's potential for growth and the strategies designed to promote that growth, were discussed by the third panel, which included [Christophe Leclercq](#), founder and publisher of Euractiv; [Kimmo Sasi](#), Chairman of the Finance Committee in the Finnish Parliament; [Richard Bruton](#), Irish Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; [Danny McCoy](#), Director General at the Irish Business and Employers Confederation; and [Ciarán O'Hagan](#), Head of Euro Rates Research at Société Générale.

The panellists also agreed on the importance of a functioning social welfare system in Europe and considered the challenges that changing demographic profiles would present in areas such as education, health and pensions.



Panel IV: A Transatlantic Panel: The EU and US – Shared Economic Challenges



Introduced by the keynote address of [Elmar Brok](#) MEP, the panellists – [James Elles](#) MEP; [Fredrik Erixon](#), Director of the European Centre for International Political Economy; [Sean Kay](#), Professor of International Relations at Ohio Wesleyan University and Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Eisenhower Institute in Washington D.C.; [Thomas Spiller](#), Vice President of Global Public Policy for Europe, Middle East and Africa at The Walt Disney Company and former Taoiseach [John Bruton](#) discussed recent developments and trends in transatlantic relations.

Much of the discussion centered on trade relations and efforts to restart negotiations towards a transatlantic free trade agreement. Mr Bruton stated his belief that, in order to be heard in Washington, Europe must learn to speak with one voice, while Mr Kay stressed the importance of Europe and the US working together to promote common values. The panel was moderated by CES Director [Tomi Huhtanen](#).



Panel V: A Political Union Now? Towards a More Integrated Europe – A Panel of European Affairs Ministers



Taoiseach [Enda Kenny](#) began the final panel with a keynote speech calling on EU countries to continue to support each other through the crisis as well as for new policies to spur growth and job creation and a commitment to continue to invest in research and innovation.

The panel was composed of several ministers for European affairs, namely [David Lidington](#), United Kingdom's Minister for Europe; [Miguel Morais Leitao](#), Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs; and [Íñigo Méndez De Vigo](#), Spanish Secretary of State for the EU. The participants agreed on the need for the EU to enhance transparency and accountability in how it operated. They also addressed the process of European integration and the issue of European identity. The panel was moderated by [Lucinda Creighton](#), Irish Minister of State for European Affairs and Vice President of the EPP.

Transatlantic Think Tank Conference

On the 26th June, the CES, together with the International Republican Institute (IRI), held the Third Annual Transatlantic Think Tank Conference in Brussels. The event brought together high-level think tankers, experts, policymakers and other stakeholders from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss important themes in transatlantic relations.



[Wilfried Martens](#), President of the CES and EPP, and [Lorne Craner](#), IRI President, delivered the opening remarks in which they stressed the close political, economic and historical ties that bind Europe and the United States and the common values and interests that both share.



Panel I: 'A Breakthrough in Transatlantic Economic Relations'



The first panel, chaired by [Dr Werner Fasslabend](#), President of ÖVP Political Academy, considered economic relations between the United States and Europe. Speakers included [Professor Raymond Gradus](#), Director of the CDA Research Institute; [Robert Zarate](#), Policy Director at the Foreign Policy Initiative; and [Dr Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl](#), MEP. The panel considered the feasibility of forging a transatlantic trade agreement and the need to eliminate any remaining barriers to transatlantic trade.

Panel II: 'Pivoting Together? Towards a Common Transatlantic Approach to China'



The second panel, chaired by Mr Craner, was addressed by [Olof Ehrenkrona](#), Adviser at the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation; [Dr György Granasztói](#), Foundation for Civic Hungary; [Vladimir Urutchev](#), MEP; and [Joanna Kao](#), IRI China Resident Director, and discussed the recent 'pivot' of the Obama Administration towards the Pacific and whether the US and Europe could adopt common approaches in their policies towards Asia. [Antonio López-Istúriz](#) MEP, Secretary Treasurer of the CES and Secretary General of the EPP, delivered the concluding remarks.

International Visitors Programme

In the framework of the EPP Statutory Congress in Bucharest, the 4th International Visitors Programme (IVP) was organised by the CES on the 16th-18th October. The IVP brought together international guests, prominent personalities and world-class thinkers to address pressing issues on the European and global agendas.





It was opened on the evening of the 16th by [Antonio Tajani](#), Vice-President of the European Commission and of the EPP, and [Antonio López-Istúriz](#) MEP, Secretary Treasurer of the CES and Secretary General of the EPP. This was followed by two panel discussions the next morning which were opened by [Sever Voinescu](#), of the Institute for Popular Studies (IPS). The first of these was titled ‘The EU in the World: Continued Leadership in Times of Realignment?’ and featured opening remarks from former Taoiseach [John Bruton](#) and [Elmar Brok](#) MEP. The second panel looked at ‘The Single Market at 20: Recalling Achievements, Focusing on Future Growth’ and featured [Gunnar Hökmark](#) MEP and [Hendrik Bourgeois](#), Vice President of European Affairs at General Electric. These open debates also included a number of MEPs, business leaders and high-level stakeholders.



Along with these panels, the CES set up its stand, which also set the scene for a number of interviews with European Commissioners, Heads of State, Ministers, MEPs and business representatives. These ‘[Micro Talks](#)’ could be observed by passers-by and were a popular attraction throughout the Congress.

Ideas to Actions: A Springeneration for EU-MENA Cooperation

2012 saw the culmination of the ambitious 'Springeneration' initiative, an online survey launched by the CES in order to establish recommendations for cooperation between the EU and the nations of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in the field of education.



The presentation of the 'Springeneration Survey Results: Ideas for Europe-MENA Partnership' took place on the 5th June. The event was opened by [Antonio López-Istúriz](#) MEP, Secretary Treasurer of the CES and Secretary General of the EPP. [Tomi Huhtanen](#), CES Director, presented the results of the survey, which were followed by a panel discussion moderated by [Roland Freudenstein](#), CES Deputy Director and Head of Research. Experts on the panel included [Anas El Gomati](#), Founder and Director of the Sadeq Institute in Tripoli, Libya; [Ahmed Naguib](#), CSR Director at FinBi in Cairo, Egypt; [Ehab Shalaby](#), Lecturer at the Modern Academy in Cairo and MEPs [Georgios Koumoutsakos](#) and [Radvile Morkunaite-Mikuleniene](#). The closing keynote address was delivered by [Franco Frattini](#), President of the Alcide de Gasperi Foundation, former Italian Foreign Minister and former Vice-President of the European Commission.



The CES produced a research study based on the results of the survey, ‘[Ideas to Actions: A Springeneration for EU-MENA Cooperation](#)’, analysing the role of education and youth entrepreneurship in the post Arab Spring MENA region. The recommendations of this paper were further discussed with one of its authors, CES Research Associate [Katarína Králiková](#), and nine selected participants of the online survey, who joined the debate on the 14th November for a lively discussion alongside MEPs [Ioannis Kasoulides](#) and [Alojz Peterle](#). [Wilfried Martens](#), President for the CES and the EPP, opened the discussion and Mr López-Istúriz made remarks to bring the event to a close.



CES Academy

The CES Academy is an ambitious training project aimed at improving leadership, organisational, communication and analytic skills of young, dynamic individuals involved in party politics and related political activities. [Dr Florian Hartleb](#), CES Research Associate, developed this concept using his vast experience in teaching and training.



The first Academy took place in Brussels, with training sessions at the CES and EPP headquarters, as well as lectures and visits to the European Commission and the European Parliament. The Academy was held over two separate sessions on the 13th-16th March and from the 29th May to the 1st June.





All trainings, group workshops, lectures and interactive presentations were organised on the basis of a module system composed of five pillars: European policies and the question of values, organisation and communication from a centre-right perspective, centre right leadership skills, single market and global economy and democratisation from a European perspective.

Participants were welcomed by CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#), who gave a brief presentation on the concept and goals of the Academy. [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, made remarks on the values of the EPP and engaged in a questions and answers session with the participants. During the second seminar, the delegates were addressed by [Antonio López-Istúriz](#) MEP, Secretary Treasurer of the CES and Secretary General of the EPP.



Building Climate Change Institutions: The Case of Environment and Security



On the 21st March, the CES and the Institute for Environmental Security (IES), held a conference at the European Parliament in order to reframe the international discourse on climate change and discuss the need to reform international and European institutions to respond efficiently to climate change threats.

The conference, attended by over 100 participants including European parliamentarians, military officers, climate experts and civil society representatives, was opened by [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES; [Tom Spencer](#), IES Vice-Chairman; and [Peter Liese](#) MEP.

The three panel debates featured high-profile speakers such as [Cleo Paskal](#), Associate Fellow at Chatham House; [Christian Kremer](#), EPP Deputy Secretary General; [Jamie Shea](#), NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary-General for Emerging Security Challenges; [Laszlo Czövek](#), Green Energy Project Manager at the European Defence Agency; [Chris Vanden Bilcke](#), Head of UNEP Brussels Liaison Office; and [Elmar Brok](#) MEP. The panel concluded with closing remarks from Mr Spencer and CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#).



The West and the New Middle East - Europe, America, Israel and the changes in the Middle East and North Africa

On the 22nd and 23rd March, the CES, along with the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya, and with the support of the AJC Transatlantic Institute, organised a conference in Brussels to discuss the dramatic developments that have taken place in the MENA region over the past year.



The conference heard remarks from [Craig Kennedy](#), President of the GMF; [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, and Maj Gen (ret.) [Danny Rothschild](#), Director of the Institute for Policy and Strategy at IDC Herzliya. All three agreed that the Arab Spring was indeed significant and also on the importance of partners in Europe, the United States and Israel convening to consider the implications of these developments.

The five panel discussions that followed delved deeper into the political developments that have taken place in the MENA region, examined Iran's nuclear Programme and the international community's response to it, addressed Turkey and its role in the region, discussed the Arab-Israeli peace process and finally considered what form the West's engagement in the region should take.

The event was closed with remarks from [Daniel Schwammental](#), Director of the AJC Transatlantic Institute.



Author's Dinner with Timothy Snyder



On the 8th May, [Timothy Snyder](#), one of the rising stars of US contemporary historical research, discussed his latest book, '[Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin](#)', and the relevance of the history of totalitarianism. The book won five awards including the Emerson Prize in the Humanities and the Leipzig Award for European Understanding.

In talking about the two most brutal ideologies of the past century, and demonstrating the interaction of Stalinism and National Socialism in the Bloodlands of Europe, between Germany and Russia, he drew profound conclusions about politics and modernity. He showed how Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and North America have developed strongly divergent narratives of the Second World War and its aftermath, which continue to inform their respective world views today.

The project of European integration, and its strategic goals and the instruments to achieve them, are based on the West European narrative of 1939-89. It has recently been enriched by elements of the Central European narrative. But America's and Russia's perspective, not to forget that of the non-EU parts of the Bloodlands, must also be taken into account.



Syria and Middle Eastern Security

On 14th June the Centre for European Studies invited a delegation from the Institute for National Security Studies of Tel Aviv University, headed by Major General (ret.) [Amos Yadlin](#), former Head of Israeli Military Intelligence to discuss the volatile situation in the Syrian civil war.



Major General Yadlin explained that Israel's approach, regardless of its moral sense of responsibility, is to play an inactive role due to its sensitive presence in the region and to avoid the risk of making the Syrian opposition appear to be traitors by accepting support from Israel. In response, [Christian Berger](#), Director North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran and Iraq at the European External Action Service, explained that the EU supported the opposition forces and that it will support Kofi Annan's plan and provide aid to refugees.

While recognising that Iran is the main spoiler in the region, none of the speakers saw Iran playing a key role in a future, post-Assad Syria, mainly because of the Sunni-Shia division.

Exchange Programme for Political Parties from the Mediterranean Countries

2012 saw the first of a series of exchange programmes with political parties from the MENA countries. The aim of this project is to support the development of democracy and human rights in the region. Between 24th and 28th September the CES, the EPP and its Group in the European Parliament invited fourteen representatives of the Tunisian political parties Ennahda, Nida Tunis, and Al-Jomhuri, and the youth movement Front Jeune to Brussels.

The CES organised a bilateral meeting with [Mahinur Özdemir](#), the youngest member of the Brussels Parliament and of Turkish descent. She spoke about the challenges of integrating migrants as well as the difficulty of being stuck between two cultures. Furthermore, the group spoke with local NGO Foyer, which assists migrants in integrating into Belgian society. Here they discussed the many services that are provided to muslims and other migrants as well as the way Europe deals with muslims. Finally, the visiting party representatives met with the social media expert [Patrick Bosteels](#), who gave them important hints about how to reach out with their message to citizens.



Green Energy - Green Business in Europe

On the 18th September, the CES hosted an event in Brussels featuring the publication 'Green Energy – Green Business: New Financial and Policy Instruments for Sustainable Growth in the EU', produced in cooperation with the European Centre for Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS).



The event started with remarks from CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#), followed by [Professor Dr Friedbert Pflüger](#), Director of EUCERS at King's College London. Keynote speeches were delivered by [Christian Kremer](#), EPP Deputy Secretary General, and [Simon Ashwell](#), Senior Market Development Leader at General Electric. The authors of the study, [Arash Duero](#), a Research Associate at EUCERS, and [Sandu-Daniel Kopp](#) of the Berlin Centre for Caspian Region Studies, discussed the content of the paper. CES Deputy Director and Head of Research, [Roland Freudenstein](#), offered concluding remarks.

The discussion centred on the question of how to promote the development and use of green energy in order to reduce carbon emissions while also achieving real and sustainable economic growth in Europe.

This publication was also launched in London in early 2012 by CES, EUCERS, the European Commission Representation in the UK and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in London in the framework of a series of roundtable discussions on European energy security topics.

The Impact of the Economic Crisis on the EU perspective of the Western Balkans

At a time when ‘enlargement’ is an unpopular word in the EU, the Western Balkans are making more efforts than ever to come closer to the EU. This was the conclusion drawn in the joint CES–Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) publication ‘The Impact of the Economic Crisis on the EU Perspective of the Western Balkans’ by [Rumiana Jeleva](#), former EPP Vice President. In order to contain the crisis, each country has been taking structural reforms to improve growth, macro-economic stability, trade, investment and employment. Moreover, they have ensured that each measure taken is already in line with EU regulations.

Taking the floor at the launch, held on the 10th October, were the Ambassadors of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well as a European Parliament Observer Member of Croatia. They all agreed with the main findings of the report, emphasizing that it is now up to the EU to stay on course. The launch followed the presentation of the European Commission progress reports showing significant improvement in all of the seven countries. [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, reiterated that the EU would not be complete without the accession of the Western Balkans. That makes it all the more important that the EU should be ready to accept when the Western Balkan countries have complied with all the accession criteria.



Green and Secure: How to Tackle Flexibility Challenges in an Integrated EU Power Market?



On the 30th October, the CES organised a conference on EU energy policy in order to debate the issues relating to private investments in the renewables sector and new solutions for grid stability, as well as to make the case for a continental energy market that offers more security, economies of scale and better access to capital for markets.

The event featured [Günther Oettinger](#), European Commissioner for Energy, as the keynote speaker. It was followed by two in-depth panel discussions that included the following speakers: [Lambert van Nistelrooij](#) MEP; [Vesa Riihimäki](#), Group Vice President of Power Plants for Wärtsilä; [Stephen Woodhouse](#), Director at Pöyry Management Consulting; [Peter Ramm](#), Chief Operating Officer for Europe at Advanced Power; [Fernando García](#), Head of Iberdrola's Brussels Office; and [Markus Pietikäinen](#), Vice President of Group Treasury and Financial Services at Wärtsilä. CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#), provided the closing remarks.

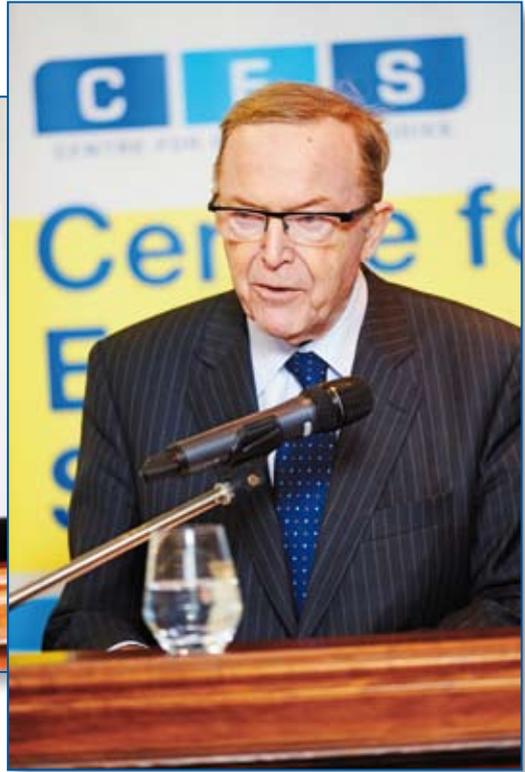


From Tough Reforms to Eurozone Membership: Latvia's Road to Growth

On the 6th December, the CES organised a conference in Brussels on Latvia's economic recovery towards stability and competitiveness. Attended by over 150 participants, the conference featured Latvian Prime Minister, [Valdis Dombrovskis](#), as well as key members of the European Parliament such as [Corien Wortmann-Kool](#) (Vice President of the EPP) and [Tunne Kelam](#), who stressed the crucial role the government has played in leading the country out of the crisis and in turning these achievements into one of the most remarkable European success stories of the last two decades.

Prime Minister Dombrovskis stressed the importance of acting decisively in undertaking fiscal adjustments and structural reforms early when confronted by a financial crisis in order to regain financial stability and resume growth. He outlined Latvia's policy of stabilising state finances, improving administrative efficiency, introducing reforms in health, education and tax systems and stimulating the economy with the assistance of EU funds. Finally, he re-affirmed Latvia's target of entering the Eurozone in 2014.





Both [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, and [Antonio López-Istúriz](#) MEP, Secretary Treasurer of the CES and Secretary General of the EPP, highlighted and praised Latvia's impressive efforts.



Common Projects with Member Foundations



Course on Political Thought and Practice

The CES organised a series of ten lectures in cooperation with the Academy for the Development of a Democratic Environment (AZAD) in Malta over the course of a month, from the 26th September to the 9th November.

The lecture series aimed to provide young political activists and party candidates, as well as incumbent MPs, an insight into the role of government in modern society. The series also sought to shed some light on the relationship between public institutions and the media, and on the political tools deployed in electoral campaigns, with recent elections in France and the US being used as case studies.



A New Beginning in the Arab World: How Can the European Youth Contribute?

The CES and the Institute for Eurodemocracy Glafcos Clerides organised, in the framework of the YEPP Summer School 2012, a seminar under the title 'A New Beginning in the Arab World: How Can the European Youth Contribute?', which took place in Larnaca, Cyprus, from the 4th-9th July.

The seminar aimed to provide young politicians with an understanding of the fundamental principles of democracy, the role of politics, business, human rights, and civil society in North Africa and the Middle East. It also sought to bring young people from the Arab world and Europe together to discuss youth policy and promote intercultural dialogue.

Representatives from the European Parliament and the Cypriot political scene, including MEPs [Ioannis Kasoulides](#) and [Eleni Theocharous](#); as well as [Nicos Anastasiades](#), President of the Democratic Rally of Cyprus, attended and spoke about international development programmes and aid to North Africa.



The CES with the support of the Foundation for Social Research and Analysis (FAES) welcomed in Brussels and Madrid a group of over 30 young Latin American political leaders between 11th-25th November as part of a two week programme to learn about the European institutions.



Among the senior figures they had the opportunity to meet were [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the CES and the EPP; the former Prime Minister of Spain [Jose Maria Aznar](#); [Antonio López-Istúriz](#) MEP, Secretary Treasurer of the CES and Secretary General of the EPP; MEPs [Pablo Arias Echevarría](#), [Pablo Zalba](#) and [Ignacio Salafranca](#); and [Rodrigo Rivera](#), the Colombian Ambassador to the EU. They also met with EPP and CES policy advisers and communications experts, who led workshops on transnational party politics.



Immigration, Integration, Asylum: National and European Perspectives

On the 31st January, the CES in cooperation with the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) held a joint event to launch the book by the CES and its member foundations ‘Opening the Door? Immigration and Integration in the European Union.’



[Angelika Schlunck](#), Director of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union, and [Christian Forstner](#), Brussels Director of the HSS, provided the opening remarks. [Manfred Weber](#) MEP, Vice-Chair of the EPP Group, delivered the keynote address. The panel discussion, moderated by [Vít Novotný](#), CES Senior Research Officer and editor of the book, included [Simon Busuttil](#) MEP, as well as the authors of two chapters: [Oľga Gyárfášová](#), Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Public Affairs at the Comenius University in Bratislava; and [Mauricio Rojas Mullor](#), Director at the Observatory for Immigration and Development Cooperation in Madrid.

In his remarks to close the conference, Mr Novotný remarked that immigration and integration in Europe constitute a highly complex issue with implications for a wide range of different policy areas. He added that, given the complex nature of the issue, it must continue to command the constant attention of policymakers.



The European Agenda Under the Irish EU-Presidency

The CES in cooperation with the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) organised a conference in Brussels on the 4th December on the Irish EU Presidency, which begins on 1st January 2013.



The event was opened by CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#) and [Christian Forstner](#), Brussels Director of the HSS. [Markus Ferber](#) MEP then offered the keynote speech, that was followed by a discussion which included [Gay Mitchell](#) MEP, head of the Fine Gael delegation to the European Parliament; [Dara Murphy](#) TD, member of the Irish National Parliament; and [Tony Connelly](#), Europe Editor for RTE News. The panel was moderated by [Karel Kovanda](#), former Deputy Director General of DG Relex, European Commission.

The panellists discussed the priorities of the Irish Presidency. Economic issues, such as preparations for the banking union and the negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), dominated the agenda.



The European Integration of the Western Balkans



On the 4th June, the CES in cooperation with the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS), hosted a conference on the occasion of the launch of the CES research paper 'European Integration of the Western Balkans: From Reconciliation To European Future'.

During the welcoming remarks, [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, and [Dr Ingo Friedrich](#), honorary member of the European Parliament and Treasurer of the EPP, reminded the audience of the conflict which followed on the disintegration of communist Yugoslavia and underlined the importance of regional conciliation and cooperation, as the necessary basis for European integration.



A discussion followed with the participation of [Doris Pack](#) MEP; [Rumiana Jeleva](#), former Vice-President of the EPP; and the author of the publication, former CES Visiting Fellow [Dr Lucia Vesnić-Alujević](#). The session was moderated by Serbian journalist [Dejan Anastasijević](#).





Over the course of 2012, the CES in cooperation with the Amaro da Costa Institute (IDL) organised three debates in Lisbon, Portugal. The first debate, on the causes of the financial crisis, took place between [Bruno Mações](#), a political adviser to the Portuguese Prime Minister, and [João Galamba](#), a member of the Portuguese parliament. The debate centred on the role of political regulation of markets.

The second debate, on media and politics, was held between [Carlos Magno](#), President of Entidade Reguladora para a Comunicação Social (ERC), and [Joaquim Vieira](#), President of Observatório da Imprensa. The speakers considered the independence of journalists and their relationship with politicians.

The third and final debate examined the Portuguese education system with [Francisco Vieira e Sousa](#), Member of the Board of Fórum para a Liberdade de Educação (FLE), and [Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo](#), Executive Director of Associação de Estabelecimentos de Ensino Particular e Cooperativo (AEEP).





During 2012, the CES in cooperation with the Amaro da Costa Institute (IDL) had the privilege of hosting ten lunch lectures, each of them with the presence of high profile speakers in their own field of expertise, who reflected upon some present-day topic dominating the Portuguese and European political agenda, both internally and in relation to the EU.

Three lectures focused primarily on Portuguese-European issues. Four other lectures examined a number of specific policies such as agriculture, social welfare, the challenges faced by the Portuguese coalition government and health.

Finally, there were three other lectures, this time dedicated to singular issues, given by three personalities who were presiding to highly relevant Portuguese institutions at the time of the conferences.



Adelino Amaro da Costa: Evocative Session and Photographic Exhibition

The exhibition, organised by the CES in cooperation with the Amaro da Costa Institute (IDL) on the 7th December, celebrated the life and work of Adelino Amaro da Costa, founder of the Democratic and Social Centre – People’s Party (CDS-PP), the Portuguese Christian Democratic Party, as well as a founder of IDL.



[Luís Gouveia Fernandes](#), President of IDL, presided over the event and [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, delivered a keynote speech. It was also attended by [Paulo Portas](#), Minister of State and Foreign Affairs to the Portuguese Government and President of CDS-PP; and [Eugénio Anacoreta Correia](#), one of the founders of IDL together with Adelino Amaro da Costa.

The honourable guests contributed brief remarks on Adelino Amaro da Costa’s contribution to establishing a democratic Portugal.



Network of Ideas: Youth for Democracy, Freedom and Development



The CES, in cooperation with the Jože Pučnik Institute (IJP), held a series of events aimed at promoting youth participation in politics and society. The programme included two 'Academies of Active Citizenship and Entrepreneurship', two conferences and two business debates.

The first academy, held in Maribor on the 11th-13th May, discussed topics such as active citizenship, entrepreneurship, and the media; while the second, organised on the 5th-7th October in Piran, discussed the required government reforms for Slovenia's economic breakthrough with Prime Minister [Janez Janša](#), amongst others.



The Network of Ideas project also held two lectures on the 2nd September and 28th November, respectively around the Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Russian Minister of Media, and two conferences: 'Ending the Process of Privatization in Slovenia: Why and How the State Should Withdraw from the Ownership of Companies', on the 11th December; and 'Slovenia 2013: Rising to the Challenge', on the 22nd December.



Christian Democrat Internationalism. Its Action in Europe and Worldwide From Post-World War II Until the '90s

The project, organised by the CES in cooperation with the Luigi Sturzo Institute, aimed at continuing the activities of research and debate activated in 2011. The mission of the project was to promote the knowledge of this complex transnational political movement, which played a pivotal role in the European unification process and in shaping the EU institutions.



Two international events were held. On the 27th September, a workshop was organised on 'Christian Democrat Internationalism in Europe. Presentation of Ongoing Research', which was followed by a final conference on the 6th-7th December on 'The Development of Christian Democrat Internationalism 1945-1979. The Role of Parties, Movements, People'.

The research paid particular attention to the role played by political leaders. Video interviews were conducted with [Wilfried Martens](#), President of the EPP and the CES, as well as [Dario Antoniozzi](#), [Roberto Savio](#), [Paola Gaiotti De Biase](#), amongst others.



Vocational Education and Training: Experiences, Best Practices and Challenges for the Future

On the 29th November, in cooperation with the Institute for Humanistic Studies Miquel Coll i Alentorn (INEHCA) and with the support of the Education Commission of the Unió Democràtica de Catalunya party (UDC), the Diputació de Barcelona, the CETEI-Ituarte Technology Center and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), the CES organised a seminar on 'Vocational Education and Training: Experiences, Best Practices and Challenges for the Future'.



Structured in two roundtable debates, the seminar considered the benefits of reforming curricula to encourage students to gain practical, 'real world' experience, investing in innovative teaching and learning strategies and finally, encouraging the private sector to adopt a more proactive role in vocational education and training.





Commemoration of the Velvet Revolution

On the 17th November, the CES in cooperation with the Institute for Modern Slovakia (IPMS) organised the annual ceremony to commemorate the Velvet Revolution and celebrate freedom and democracy in the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava.

CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#), joined [Pavol Frešo](#), Chairman of the Slovak Democratic and Christian Union–Democratic Party (SDKÚ-DS); [Ján Figel](#), Chairman of the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH); and [Béla Bugár](#), Chairman of Most Híd, in the ceremony to celebrate the legacy of the Revolution.

Key figures from the revolution, as well as local musicians, singers and more than 1,000 citizens also participated in this public event.



The CES, in cooperation with the Institute for Popular Studies (ISP) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), organised in March a Political Management School for young people from the youth organisations of the PDL. There were three sessions of this year's school: the first took place in Suceava; the second, in Targu Mures; and the third, in Prahova County (Romania).



This event offers young people the opportunity to discuss policy issues with leaders of the PDL, government representatives, experts and communication specialists. This year over 200 young people took part in the Political Management School and received specialised training provided by trainers and guests of this project.

The training package for all three modules included different subjects: assessing candidates, analysis of the electoral and political context, promoting candidates and messages, the organisation and financing of election campaigns.



Immigration and Integration of Immigrants from the European Perspective

On the 10th May, the CES, in cooperation with the Institute for Popular Studies (ISP) and the Romanian office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), organised a conference on migration in Romania. During the event, the CES book 'Opening the Door? Immigration and Integration in the European Union' was also presented.



The conference, which brought together over 50 academics, representatives of NGOs, politicians and civil servants, was opened by [Marian Zulean](#), Deputy Director of the ISP, and [Holger Dix](#), Director of KAS Romania.

Following the presentation of the book by CES Senior Research Officer [Vít Novotný](#), [Dumitru Sandu](#), sociologist from the University of Bucharest, criticised the fact that Romania's strategy for immigration and integration was not being implemented. [Sulfina Barbu](#), Former Minister of Labour, Family and Social Protection, then explored issues of demographic change and an ageing population. Finally, [Marian Tutilescu](#), Head of Schengen Department, European Affairs and International Relations at the Romanian Ministry of Interior, discussed difficulties regarding border controls.



Book Launch: 'Europe: I Struggle, I Overcome'

Wilfried Martens, President of the EPP and the CES, was in Romania on the 29th–30th May, at the invitation of **Valeriu Stoica**, President of the Institute for Popular Studies (ISP), on the occasion of launching the Romanian translation of his book 'Europe: I Struggle, I Overcome' ('Europa: Lupta si Inving'), a CES-ISP joint publication.

More than 150 people attended the event, members of the Democrat-Liberal Party, academics, members of Parliament, and many young people. It was opened by Mr Stoica and was followed by speeches of **Cristian Patrasconiu**, translator of the book; and **Emil Boc**, President of PDL. In his speech, President Martens urged young people in Romania to get involved in politics and to express civic ambitions in the democratic process.



Digital Democracy: Gadgets and Tweets for a Good Cause?

The seminar 'Digital Democracy: Gadgets and Tweets for a Good Cause?', organised by CES and KANSIO, consisted of two sessions. The first part took place in Helsinki, Finland, on the 29th September, and was dedicated to the presentation of the book 'Social Media - The New Power of Political Influence' by its author, [Ama Auvinen](#). [Jyrki Selenius](#), District Director of Kokoomus in Southern Savonia, provided his thoughts on the book before giving details on the actual social media practices that have been implemented by Kokoomus.



The second part was held on the 30th September in Tallinn, Estonia, with [Ville Tapio's](#) lecture on crowdsourcing in politics, business, public administration and NGOs. [Anna-Greta Tsahkna](#), from Pro Patria Institute in Tallinn, presented the digital democracy in Estonia.



The German Miracle Bounces Back: Successful Labour Market Reform

'The German Miracle Bounces Back – Successful Labour Market Reform' was a three day long intensive joint seminar organised from the 30th August to the 1st September by the CES in cooperation with KANSIO and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) in Berlin, Germany.

On the first day of the conference, the guests visited the headquarters of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), where they met [Olav Göhs](#), Special Adviser on Foreign Policy and European Affairs. The group also visited the Tagesspiegel newspaper and were given an insight into the history of journalism and freedom of speech in Germany by journalist [Pertti Rönkkö](#).

The seminar on the labour market reform was held on the second day in the offices of KAS, where they were welcomed by [Michael Borchard](#), KAS Director. This was followed by opening remarks from CES Deputy Director and Head of Research, [Roland Freudenstein](#), and a presentation of the Finnish and German labour market structures. The day concluded with a visit to the Finnish embassy where the group was welcomed by Ambassador [Päivi Luostarinen](#).

Voting in the Hood. Immigrant Voting Behavior at a Glance

This study, by the CES and KANSIO, aimed to analyse the electoral participation of immigrants in Finland.

The results of this study, based on an online poll, were presented in Helsinki on the 4th May. In her remarks to launch the publication, the author, [Katja Vesander](#), painted a fairly optimistic view of the future for immigrant participation in the political process in Finland. According to Ms Vesander people appear to be enthusiastic and interested, as long as they have the information they need.

This was followed by a discussion led by [Markku Pyykkölä](#), Director of KANSIO, which included [Arto Satonen](#) and [Sanna Lauslahti](#), members of the Finnish Parliament, and [Radu Szekely](#), the Chairman of National Immigrants. Expert remarks were then given by [Niklas Wilhelmsson](#), an official at the Ministry of Justice, and [Riitta Yläatalo](#), from the Academic Employment Office in the Ministry of Labour.





Religion and Politics in Europe

The CES, in cooperation with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), organised an international conference in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the 21st-22nd November. The conference, 'Religion and Politics in Europe', attracted over 150 guests, including numerous politicians, representatives of each of the country's religious communities, and a broad range of journalists from television and print media.

[Sabina Wölkner](#), Director of the KAS in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and [Vít Novotný](#), CES Senior Research Officer, welcomed the guests and [Dr Pero Sudar](#), the Auxiliary Bishop of Sarajevo, gave the conference's introductory speech making remarks on Sarajevo's unique, multi-ethnic nature. The keynote address was delivered by [Prof Dr Stefan Schreiner](#), of the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen and the European Abrahamic Forum.



This was followed by four panel discussions. Notable speakers included politicians such as [Martin Raguz](#) and [Mladen Ivanić](#), the Imam [Mustafa Spahić](#) and [Amra Babić](#), Mayor of the Municipality of Visoko and Europe's first hijab-wearing mayor. The panels considered the relationship between religion and politics in Bosnia and Herzegovina and, more broadly, the role of religion in contemporary politics throughout Europe.





Visions and Wishes for Europe - Shaping the Future of Europe

The CES, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the CIVIC Institute for International Education in Düsseldorf organised a training-simulation titled 'Visions and Wishes for Europe - Shaping the Future of Europe' in Ohrid, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, from the 21st-24th of April.



Young party members and students from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Greece took part in the training exercise. The seminar aimed to bring the EU institutions closer to the participants and promote dialogue, and the exchanging of views and experiences between them. The training itself involved each participant playing the role of either an EU institution, an applicant country or of a member of the international media.





Intercultural Dialogue – Response to the Challenges of the Interethnic Relations in Bulgaria

This project, carried out throughout 2012 by the CES in cooperation with the Bulgarian office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the civil association EVET (European Vision for Ethnic Tolerance) developed leadership skills among young people from Bulgaria's Turkish minority. It placed emphasis on intercultural dialogue, equipping young leaders with skills to reduce tensions between different communities in Bulgaria.

The project began in March with focus groups in Sofia, Ruse, Shumen, Plevna, Ognyanovo, Asenovgrad and Kotel. These were followed in July by two regional conferences on '[Intercultural Dialogue and Developing Communities](#)' in Bansko and Ruse, and a final event in October in Shumen attended by [Vit Novotný](#), CES Senior Research Officer. Notably, the conference considered the lessons which could be learned from the evolution in European identity, which succeeded through developing and integrating local, regional and national identities.

The project culminated in a publication titled '[Handbook for the Intercultural Dialogue in Bulgaria](#)'.



The CES, in cooperation with Kos Karoly Academy (KKA) and the Hungarian Youth Conference of Romania, held the 2012 EU Camp between the 3rd-8th July in Izvoru Muresului, Harghita County (Romania).



The theme of the camp, organised for young people who believe in the important role they play in shaping the Romanian, as well as the European society, was 'The Collapse of the Regions – Regional Identity vs. Local Identity'.

Speakers included CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#), representatives of local, regional and national authorities and also experts from the Sapientia University in Transylvania. The representatives and experts also exchanged views with the camp participants on a variety of issues pertaining to youth policies.



Double Challenge: Economic Crisis and Immigration

On the 18th July, the CES in cooperation with the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (KKID), organised a symposium in Athens, Greece, to consider recent migration trends in Greece and Europe. The event, which attracted over 200 people, was chaired by [Mariana Pirgioti](#), General Director of the KKID.

The keynote speaker at the event, [Evrripides Stylianidis](#), Minister of the Interior, referred to the problems arising from illegal immigration to Greece. Mr Stylianidis also noted that the economic crisis has affected the ability of Greece to control illegal immigration without external assistance and support.



Other speakers, such as [Angelos Syrigos](#), Assistant Professor at Panteion University; [Antonis Kontis](#), Associate Professor at the University of Athens; [Ioanna Tsiganou](#), Director of Research at the National Centre for Social Research; and [Alexandra Tragaki](#), Assistant Professor at Harokopio University, analysed the emigration from Greece in the context of the current economic crisis.



Europe: More or Less Union?

The CES in cooperation with the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (KKID) organised an event on the 13th September in Athens, Greece, with the aim of discussing the financial crisis and to consider the necessary structural reforms which are required in order for Europe to achieve sustainable growth.

The forum was chaired by journalist [Panagis Galiatsatos](#). Speakers included CES Director, [Tomi Huhtanen](#); [Kyriakos Mitsotakis](#), a Nea Demokratia member of the Greek Parliament; [Rena Dourou](#), a Syriza member of the Greek parliament; [Nikos Christodoulakis](#), Professor at the Athens University of Economics and Business and former Minister; and [Panayiotis Ifestos](#), Professor at the University of Piraeus.



Following the speakers, the audience was invited to vote and express their opinion on the future of the EU. The majority of participants declared themselves in favour of strengthening the supranational and intergovernmental character of the Union.



Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis (The Greek Case)

The CES in cooperation with the Konstantinos Karamanlis Institute for Democracy (KKID) and the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) held a conference on the 17th December entitled ‘[Social Cohesion in Times of Crisis \(The Greek Case\)](#)’. The event was held in the European Parliament and detailed research of Greek public opinion was presented.



[Stratos Fanaras](#), CEO of Metron Analysis, presented the outcome of the research which looked at how Greek people are coping with the crisis. [Professor Mooli Lahad](#), founder and President of the Community Stress Prevention Centre, then commented on the research findings.

The audience also heard from [Marietta Giannakou](#) MEP, Head of the Greek EPP delegation to the European Parliament; [Professor Yannis Valinakis](#), member of the CES Executive Board; and [Dr Ingo Friedrich](#), former Vice-President of the European Parliament and Treasurer of the EPP. [Mariana Pyrgioti](#), Director General of KKID, moderated the conference.



On the 6th September, the final workshop of a joint research project developed by the CES, the Foundation for a Civic Hungary (PMA) and Nézőpont Institute was held in Budapest.

The research made an in-depth analysis of the legal framework for media in certain selected EU-member states. Questions and doubts were posed about the composition of the media authority and its right to impose fines. The aim was to make a wide analysis in Europe on how the issues of media are handled in practice in different EU Member States.



Participants, mainly analysts, political scientists and university students, were welcomed by [Ágoston Mráz](#), General Director of Nézőpont, and [Zsolt Szabó](#), Foreign Affairs Director of PMA. Then they heard reports about the British, Austrian, Romanian, Polish, German, French and Portuguese systems. A question and answer session followed where comparisons were made to the Hungarian system.

The annual European Forum, organised by the CES in cooperation with the Political Academy of the ÖVP (PolAk) and the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policies (AIES), took place in Vienna on the 4th December. More than 100 participants attended the Forum to partake in a discussion on the theme ‘Which Future for Europe’.



In his keynote address, [Michael Spindelegger](#), Austrian Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs and Vice Chancellor, stated his support for enhanced European cooperation, the direct election of the President of the Commission, and of continuing the process of enlargement to welcome Western Balkan states to the Union. Former President of the European Parliament [Jerzy Buzek](#) echoed these sentiments and stressed the necessity of the EU becoming closer to its citizens.

Other speakers in the conference included [Stefaan De Corte](#), CES Senior Research Officer, and [Antonio Missiroli](#), Director of the EU Institute for Security Studies. In closing the conference, [Werner Fasslabend](#), President of PolAk and AIES and Chairman of CES Academic Council, noted that Europe is more than only a geographic area and that several political speeds in Europe are a reality to take into account.



European Summer Academy for Leading Seniors: ‘Seniors for Europe’

On the 24th-26th June, the CES, in cooperation with the Political Academy of the ÖVP (PolAk), the European Senior Citizens Union and the EPP, organised a conference under the theme of ‘Seniors for Europe’, which took place in Vienna. Participants included economists, politicians, scientists and representatives of senior citizens organisations from across Europe.



The conference opened with remarks from [Bernhard Worms](#), President of the European Senior Citizens Union; [Marilyn Flemming](#), former Austrian Minister; and [Heinz Becker](#) MEP, Secretary General of the Austrian Senior Citizens Union. This was followed by speeches and discussions on the challenges brought about by changing demographic patterns across Europe.



On the 23rd November, the CES in cooperation with the Pro Patria Institute and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) held an event to launch the joint publication '[Conservative Foreign and Security Policy](#)' in Tallinn, Estonia.

The event was chaired by [Tunne Kelam](#) MEP. The five authors and the editor [Trivimi Velliste](#), [Mart Nutt](#), [Andres Herkel](#), [Marko Mihkelson](#), [Paul Tammert](#), and [Mart Helme](#) made brief remarks introducing the content of the publication and presenting their views on what the centre-rights' foreign and security policy objectives should be.



Over 100 participants, including students, academics, diplomats, members of the Estonian centre-right political sphere and journalists, attended the event and engaged in open and frank discussions on the publication's findings with the authors.



Canon of Christian Democracy

On the 22nd May the CES, in cooperation with the CDA Research Institute, organised the launch of the Dutch version of the 'Canon of Christian Democracy', a book regrouping 40 essays on the history and development of Christian Democracy in the Netherlands.

The book was launched by four former CDA prime ministers in front of a hundred former members of parliament, former ministers and former members of the board of CDA. [Piet de Jong](#), [Dries van Agt](#), [Ruud Lubbers](#) and [Jan Peter Balkenende](#) all recounted anecdotes of their times as prime minister in between short films about the leaders. The event was opened by [Prof Dr Raymond Gradus](#), Director of the CDA Research Institute and member of the CES Executive Board, and was closed by [Ruth Peetoom](#), President of CDA and initiator of the Canon.



Projects with Partners



Serbia in the Process of Transition

The seminar 'Serbia in the Process of Transition', organised by the CES in cooperation with the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence (BFPE), took place from the 6th-9th December in Kraljevo, Serbia.



The participants represented political parties, the media, business groups and NGOs. The seminar considered the prospect of Serbia joining the EU, reforms in the educational and judicial systems, and the ongoing challenge of combatting corruption in Serbia.



The seminar also focused on sustainable development and climate change and featured a screening of the documentary film 'An Inconvenient Truth'.

The Multiannual Financial Framework: From the National Interest Towards a Common Future

On the 12th December, the CES, in cooperation with the Center for European Affairs (CEA), organised an event under the title 'The Multiannual Financial Framework: From the National Interest Towards a Common Future' in Bratislava, Slovakia.



Representatives from think tanks and academia, politicians and institutions, business and financial institutions and the media gathered to engage in a discussion on the most pressing EU topics.

By organising this project, the CES and the CEA helped to establish further dialogue on Europe in the heart of Central Europe, thereby helping to ensure that the views of central Europeans on the future direction of Europe will be heard.



The Role of Think Tanks to Foster a Growth Agenda

The CES and the Platform for a Sustainable Growth organised a conference on 'The Role of Think-Tanks to Foster a Growth Agenda' on the 22nd June in Lisbon, Portugal. The conference brought together over 150 participants, including members of Portuguese civil society, as well as leaders from government, academia, public organisations and the private sector. It provided an opportunity for those participants to listen to speakers from leading European think-tanks and to discuss their importance and competence in influencing and proposing policies and measures aimed at promoting sustainable growth in Europe.



Speakers included [Christian Egenhofer](#), Senior Fellow at Centre for European Policy Studies; [Andrew Haldenby](#), Director at Reform; [João Marques de Almeida](#), Bureau of European Policy Advisors (European Commission) and CES Individual Member; and [Phillip Blond](#), Director at ResPublica.



Europe and the Arab Revolutions: How Can the EU Best Support Democracy and Human Rights?

On the 26th January, the CES in conjunction with the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), organised a conference to consider how the EU might best support the development of democracy and the protection of human rights in the aftermath of the Arab uprisings.

A major topic of discussion was the possibility of political groups imposing majoritarian political and religious views at odds with European values. A number of participants stressed the importance of protecting minority's rights. Other topics of discussion included the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and migration policy.

Central European Strategic Forum

Between the 30th November and the 2nd December, foreign ministers, deputy ministers, EU commissioners, senior think-tankers and journalists assembled in Chateau Béla, near Štúrovo (Slovakia) for an annual brainstorming session on the future of Europe and the Atlantic community. The agenda of the conference, organised by CES and the Slovak Atlantic Commission (SAC), was dominated by the economic crisis, reforms of the EU institutions, defence collaboration, and the growth of extremism.

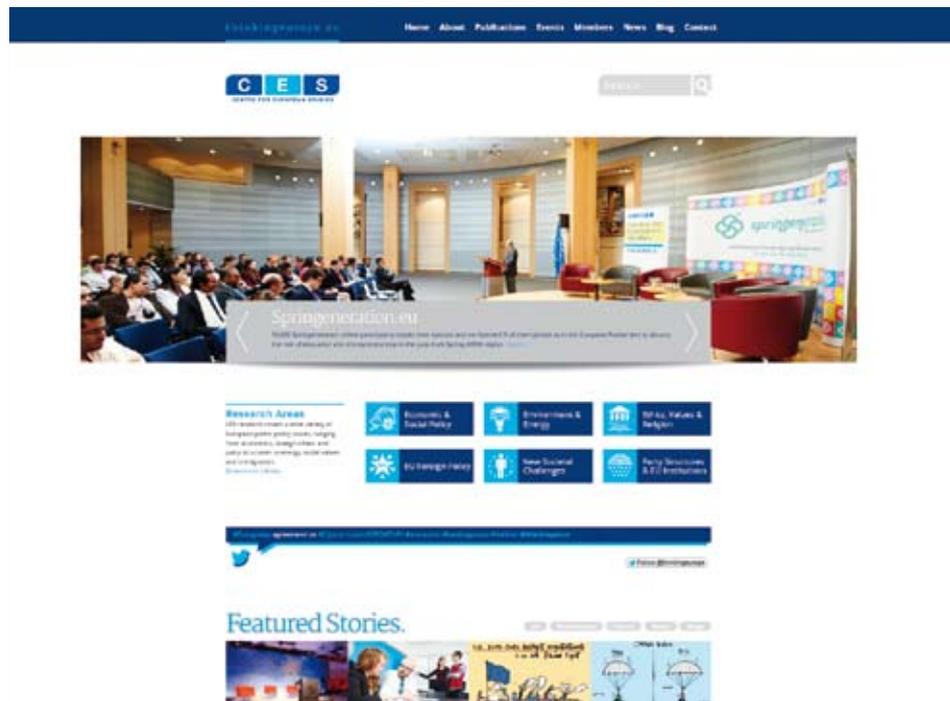
Many of the participants voiced their concern that Central Europe does not exert enough influence on policy in Brussels. They added that there exists a potential for Central European states to develop common policy platforms in order to help shape EU and NATO policy and agreed that the time has come for Central Europeans to translate their pledges to collaborate on forming policy into practice.



Outreach

- **CES Online**
- **Media Relations**
- **Social Media**

The CES attaches great importance to its online strategy, combining a regularly updated website with the active use of social networks and new media to reach its key audience and stakeholders. The main aims of this strategy are to provide free and relevant information, which is easily accessible, and also to allow user feedback by using state of the art Web 2.0 technologies.



To mark its five year anniversary, the CES re-launched www.thinkingeurope.eu. The new website aims to be a valuable resource, a state of the art platform for our stakeholders and target audience, to easily access content, as well as a user-friendly way of keeping updated about our past and upcoming events. It boasts a fresh new design together with improved architecture, allowing easy navigation and the retrieval of a large amount of information related to the Centre's research, publications and events.





We also wish to encourage interactivity and dialogue and offer tools for feedback. We believe our new website to be an online mirror of our offline efforts: connecting people, organisations, publications and events in order to create the best research out of these synergies.



As part of a broader communications strategy, in 2012 the CES intensified its presence in the media in order to become the knowledge leader for the centre-right and to be at the forefront of the European debate. Through increased press coverage of CES events, interviews and Op-Eds tackling the most significant topics in the European agenda, the CES is fulfilling its mission of raising citizens' awareness about the European political processes and becoming a platform to stimulate new ways of thinking Europe. We thus invite you to take a tour and discover the new features at the mentioned address!





Facebook



With content updated daily, the CES fanpage has steadily grown its fan base (currently over 3,000 fans) and the reach of its posts. It is the perfect forum for CES fans to get updates about the Centre's most recent activities and new publications, as well as the activity of our partners and relevant on-going European debates.

<https://www.facebook.com/centreforeuropeanstudies>

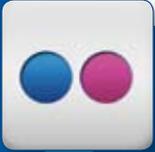


Twitter

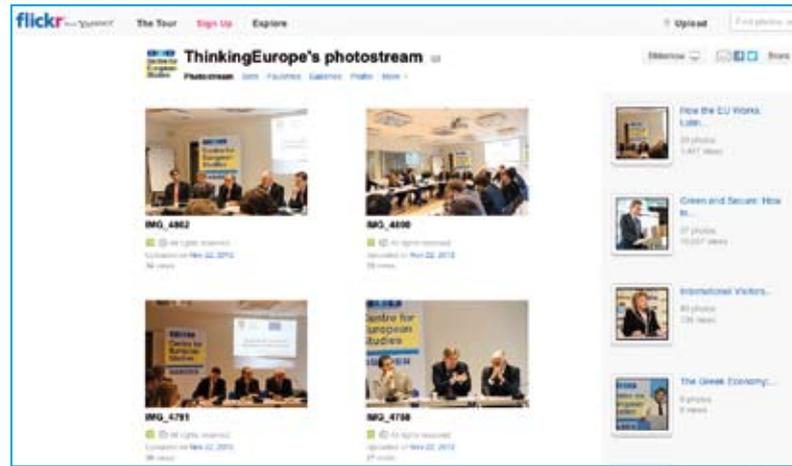


The CES is also performing very well in the 'Twitterverse', with one of the most significant followings among European-level think tanks and political foundations (over 6,000 followers). Furthermore, most events are tweeted live in order to immediately disseminate to the CES followers who cannot attend our events the most interesting points of the discussion. Major CES events have their own hashtags so that users can easily follow the conversation.

<https://twitter.com/thinkingeurope>



Flickr



This is the ideal means for online users to see all the photos from CES events and activities. With different albums for annual events, common projects with member foundations or publication launching events, the platform is also perfect for quickly identifying events connected to a certain geographical location, a high profile speaker or a topic.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/thinking_europe/



YouTube



Our channel gathers videos from our high level annual and publication launching events, as well as interviews given by European leaders, including Heads of State and Government, European Commissioners and Members of the European Parliament belonging to the EPP political family. We also regularly feature staff, Visiting Fellows and Research Associates interviews given to different media outlets. Interested audiences can subscribe to the channel and be instantly updated about CES latest events and debates.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/CESThinkingEurope>



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Rue du Commerce 20
B-1000 Brussels
Phone: +32 2 300 80 04
Fax: +32 2 300 80 11
E-mail: info@thinkingeurope.eu



For more information, publications and complete reports
of the events, please visit: www.thinkingeurope.eu