

Approaching the Northern and Southern Neighbours of the European Union

Dacian DUNA

Abstract: *This paper approaches what may be regarded as two 'dimensions' of the EU security and cooperation: the Northern and the Southern. The Northern Dimension is highly institutionalized and it developed a model of partnership and multi-level governance which inspired the European Neighbourhood Policy. At the same time, the process in the Euro-Mediterranean region has been much slower, due to the deeper divisions between the European coastal states and the African or Asian coastal states. The aim of the paper is not to provide a comprehensive analysis of the ENP. It emphasizes the 'foundational' moment of 2003 for the new European neighbourhood policy, noticing that much of the challenges and dilemmas have remained intact and still need to be addressed by the EU and its neighbours in their quest for security and identity.*

Keywords: *European Union, neighbourhood, security, strategy, cooperation*

The Assessment of the European Neighbourhood Policy in the South Caucasus: What the European Union can do?

Irina POP

Abstract: *The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is now the flagship policy of the European Union towards its neighbours. Although the ENP did not include the South Caucasus countries from the beginning, last years brought important changes in this respect. The development of the ENP in the South Caucasus can be understood as the result of the European internal debates, of the institutional corrections made by the European Commission and of the external events' influence over the Union. The European Neighbourhood Policy still needs further improvements, especially concerning the Eastern neighbours. In this paper, I will try to assess the ENP in the South Caucasus, analysing the following aspects: the EU interests in the region, the bilateral relations before the ENP, the Action Plans, the EU's assistance, the perspectives open by the Eastern Partnership - announced for spring 2009. The paper will finish with conclusions and recommendations regarding the improvement of the ENP in the South Caucasus.*

Keywords: *interests, geopolitics, Country Strategy Papers, Action Plans, EU's assistance, Eastern Partnership.*

Cross-border cooperation – a strategic dimension of European Neighborhood Policy at the Eastern frontier of the EU

Nicolae DANDIŞ

Abstract: *Each stage of the enlargement policy, with each wave of new countries that joined the European Community, has brought new neighbours that are not only neighbouring*

countries of the recently adhered states, but also become neighbouring countries of a community with common legislation and “rules of the game”. The strengthening of neighbourhood relationships is accomplished through cross-border cooperation within a more formal framework (euro-regions) or direct contacts between authorities and citizen groups in border areas. By means of this article we argue that cross-border cooperation becomes an important dimension via its role in the achievement of the ENP general objectives, which are established both by European documents of this policy and by Action Plans of the countries included in the ENP. External financial assistance through Neighbourhood Programmes for 2004-2006 as well as through the ENPI for 2007-2013 with cross-border and inter-regional Programmes are purported to draw the neighbouring communities close to European standards and cooperate for ensuring stability, security and prosperity on the entire European continent.

Keywords: *Cross-border cooperation, European Union, Neighbourhood Programmes, ENPI, frontier*

The EU's relations with the Transcaucasian Countries within the scope of the ENP

Sinem KOCAMAZ

Abstract: *The geopolitical reconfigurations in Europe after the EU enlargement brought into European Agenda some issues that will fundamentally influence the East-West relations, in term of politics, economics and security. The proximity of Caucasian states to EU makes possible different scenarios on cooperation and mutual influence. The main reason that turn EU's attention to this region is based on the great potential of oil and gas in a context where EU wants to develop alternative routes of energy in order to “escape” from Russia's influence. Therefore, the EU has taken major initiatives within its European Neighbourhood Policy in order to generate the political environment that can allow common projects and investments.*

Keywords: *Neighbourhood, Caucas, policies, energy, partnership, strategy, cooperation*

L'Union européenne et ses voisins : une affaire de citoyens

Gilles ROUET

Abstract: *This article explores the relationship between the perceptions of Europe from European and several national perspectives. Different cultural experiences led to different interpretation of Europe and its limits and accordingly, different neighbours. The national visions of Europe had an influence upon the conceptualization of the neighbourhood which has been a predominant cultural orientation.*

Keywords: *European Union, neighborhood, citizenship, proximity*

Islam and Islamism in Europe. Representations of Identity and Projects of Action

Marius LAZĂR

Abstract: *One of the most challenging issues of Europe today is to cope with the large cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and interactions that occur within a transnational society. The present article is covering the impact of Muslim population and Islamism on the European cultures. The Islamic communities in Europe form a much more diverse and even contradictory landscape than common perception would have it. More often than not, the Muslim populations now settled in European countries have brought here not only their own cultural and solidarity practices but also the various oppositions, rivalries and conflicts which exist in the complex geo-political puzzles of Maghreb, Masreq or the Indian sub-continent.*

Keywords: *Islam, Muslims, immigration, identity, diversity*

Narrative Fiction as a means of Crossing Borders

Zuzana ISTVANFOYOVA

*Umelecká literatúra nerieši životné problémy: ona ich rozkrýva.*¹ Peter Zajac

Abstract: *This study explores the relationship between fiction narratives and endorsement of multiculturalism and how reading of foreign authors can enrich the reader's experience and help crossing mental or opinionial borders of people. In other words, the aim of this paper is to support reading in general. Education (usually understood as factual information) is commonly used to prevent or eliminate negative effects of xenophobia, racism or any other conflicts between groups of people. Existing work in this field advocates mentioned idea but they do not stress enough emotional side of the problem. Education holds very important role in representation of multiculturalism, on the other hand it very often lacks the emotional aspect of educating which can be found in fiction. The aim of this paper is to display various ways of how (narrative) literature or prose can be useful in bringing nations closer to each other. Literature combines both aesthetic and informative functions and thus explains the cultural background of its author. To know something about a certain entity is only a step to understanding it. Today's Europe needs to function on this kind of principle, it needs to understand. Besides political, economical, sociological etc. cooperation, the cultural one represents a very interesting way of how to open borders for our geographical neighbours. The borders that are usually the most difficult to open are those mental ones. Subsequently, all the other questions or conflicts can be dealt with much more easily.*

Keywords: *multiculturalism, identities, cultures, literature, border, diversity*

Erasmus et la mobilité en Europe, vers un dépassement des frontières ?

Thierry CÔME

Abstract: *Two decades of Erasmus experience had an important impact on the perceptions of Europe and its meanings. Also, the language, cultural and political frontiers were*

¹ Artistic literature does not solve life problems; it uncovers them. (translation by the author)

challenged by the educational mobility promoted within EU and the neighbouring countries. A brief evaluation of the Erasmus programme demonstrates that the educational exchanges were a success for all the parts involved (individuals, universities, states and the EU) and led to the convergence of a European educational model. The new regional context after the past EU enlargements underlines new cultural frontiers and brought opportunities with regard on the access of new neighbours within the Erasmus programme.

Keywords: *Erasmus, mobility, identity, education, transfrontier, culture, youth*

Turkey, a Special EU Neighbour Patiently Awaiting a “Promised Marriage”

Fahrettin SUMER

Abstract: *This article summarizes Turkey-EU relations from historical and formal perspectives and discusses the main challenges during the accession talks toward full membership. In doing so, it presents the main debates about Turkey’s possible membership and argues that whatever the EU ultimately decides, it will be consequential not only for Turkey’s future but also for that of the EU. The EU’s admission of Turkey will cause significant changes within the EU, enhancing its international standing, energizing its economy, and contributing to its security and foreign policy goals. Turkey’s future direction will be anchored to that of the EU. The EU’s rejection of Turkey’s membership will limit the EU’s future foreign and security policy capabilities and make the EU a “Christian Club” in the eye of the Muslim World. Turkey will seek an alternative course to EU membership and even if their economic partnership continues, Turkey’s future foreign and security policies will gradually depart from those of the EU.*

Keywords: *Turkey-EU relations, Accession Negotiations, Debates about Turkey’s Possible Membership*

The Role of the Euroregions and Eurimetropolises in the Etheralisation of the Borders in the Eastern Periphery of the European Union

István SÚLI-ZAKAR

Abstract: *On the basis of empirical research carried out in the border regions, euroregions and eurometropolises, elaboration of innovation oriented, cross-border economic development, human resource development and partnership programs can be a general aim. Supporting these aims was the ultimate goal of creating euroregions and eurometropolises in Western-Europe. The system of euroregions and eurometropolises has been spreading from Western-Europe to the Eastern territories in order that border regions can exploit the comparative advantages being present in border regions even better. The most important aim in border regions, euroregions and eurometropolises is to create an advantageous economic, innovative, academic and social climate by introducing various institutions that can widen the space of successful economy and human resource development, and together with this they can improve the success of regional development planning and human resource development in the border regions of neighbouring countries.*

Keywords: *etheralisation of the borders, euroregions, eurometropolises, eastern periphery of the EU*

The Danube Region - Past, Present and Future Prospect of Transnational Cooperation as a Playground of the European Integration

Zoltán GÁL

Abstract: *The study is focused on the forms of types of territorial and interregional collaboration in the CEE and South-Eastern Europe that effects the economic and social development of these regions and deepens the European integration of the area providing further impetus for the enlargement. The Danube region itself is situated between the CEE and South-Eastern Europe (The Balkans) where nations are linked by their borders, traditional political and economic relations separating by political conflicts as well as in the past and the present. The paper gives a historical overview on the (geo)political and territorial transformations and integrating attempts within the Danube region. The second section analyses the most important territorial co-operation programmes (e.g. CADSES) initiated by the EU in relation to enlargement and cohesion policy. The paper ends with the policy issues of the common problems and dangers of the stabilization and future integration of the Balkans region.*

Keywords: *Danube, transnational cooperation, integration, opportunities, challenges*

Romanian Naval Forces Role in Crisis Management next to the Black Sea

Vasile NAZARE

Abstract: *The outcome of the power quest from the Black Sea region – in the new geopolitical and geostrategical context: the NATO and EU expansion towards east, the raised interest for Caspian energetic resources, the appearance of new and asymmetrical risks and threats – will influence the peaceful and stable climate both European and global. Starting from the indivisible security premise, Romania as NATO and EU member, must become a “dynamic vector” of stability and wealth in the Pontic area. Naval Forces, part of state’s maritime power, play an important role in projecting and protecting national interests, assuring security and maintaining stability in the nearby neighbourhood. Solving problems around the Black Sea, securing Caspian and Siberian energetic resources transport pipes, preventing asymmetrical threats (terrorism, smuggling, all kinds of traffic favoured by maritime space), all these have amplified the geopolitical and geostrategical role of Romania’s Naval Forces.*

Keywords: *crisis, border conflicts, crisis and conflicts management, regional security, maritime power, military capabilities*

Europe: Utopia and Reality. Essence, Meaning and Value of an Idea

Carlos E. Pacheco AMARAL

Abstract: *The basic argument of this essay is that Europe has no frontiers. No physical frontiers, to be more precise. And, accordingly, no fixed identity either. No positive identity that may be pinned down with precision, and raised to the condition of instrument both of inclusion,*

at least potentially, of all those who happen to share the characteristics and values it encompasses, and of exclusion of all those who happen not to share them and choose different ones. Instead, it is argued, at the heart of European identity we encounter a systematic commitment, both to self-questioning and to plurality. The denial of a fixed ascriptive identity and the willingness to remain open to receiving from the outside – and incorporating – multiple values and identities, namely all those that, in the rawlsian formulation, manage to pass the test of our reflected judgement and may constitute an occasion for Europe to grow.

Keywords: *Europe, Utopia, Identity, Frontier Culture, Liberalism, Communitarism.*