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TEPSA

Trans European Policy Studies Association

REPORT

EU@Work Seminar on the European Neighbourhood Policy

Brussels

9-12 July 2019





INTRODUCTION

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Funded by the **Europe for Citizens Programme** of the **European Commission**, the 4-day **EU@Work Seminar on the European Neighbourhood Policy** offered seventeen excellent Master students and graduates the opportunity to gain first-hand insights from researchers, EU practitioners, policymakers and officials on the current state of play and future prospects of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP).

The Seminar, which took place in **Brussels** from the **9th until the 12th of July 2019**, was organised under the academic lead of **Prof. Frank Schimmelfennig** (TEPSA Board & ETH Zürich)

The EU@Work Seminar on the European Neighbourhood Policy combined **expert lectures** and **visits** to key EU institutions, think tanks, and civil society organisations. Specifically:

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The **European External Action Service (EEAS)**

The **European Parliament**

The **European Commission**

The **European Endowment for Democracy**

The **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

EXPERT LECTURERS

Prof. Frank **Schimmelfennig**

Prof. Sieglinde **Gstöhl**

Prof. Laure **Delcour**



DAY 1

OPENING OF THE SEMINAR

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE BY FRANK SCHIMMELFENNIG

INFO SESSION ON THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

The **first day** the seminar kicked off with a general presentation of TEPSA and an overview of the seminar. The TEPSA team welcomed the **seventeen participants**, who introduced themselves and explained their special interest in the **European Neighbourhood Policy**.

The seminar students, which represented universities from **ten different European countries**, proceeded to attend the introductory lecture by **Prof Frank Schimmelfennig**, the Academic Coordinator of the Seminar and Professor of European Politics at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zürich). In his lecture, Prof. Schimmelfennig provided an overview of the context, history and rationale of the European Neighbourhood Policy and subsequent regional initiatives (Union for the Mediterranean and Eastern Partnership).

After the first lecture, participants enjoyed a welcome drink in an informal setting near the European Parliament, where they had the chance to learn more about the European Solidarity Corps from **Lope Gallego**, Programme Manager at the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission, and former **European Solidarity Corps** volunteer **Manon Levrey**.

Mr Gallego first introduced the projects developed by his Directorate-General and encouraged the TEPSA Seminar participants to explore the **volunteering opportunities** of the European Solidarity Corps. Ms Levrey then offered a first-hand testimony of her volunteering experience in Budapest.



TEPSA Project Manager Giulia Bonacquisti introduces Ms Levrey and Mr Gallego (from left to right) during the info session on the European Solidarity Corps at the end of Day 1



DAY 2

LECTURE BY **SIEGLINDE GSTÖHL**

VISIT TO THE **EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**

LECTURE BY **LAURE DELCOUR**

VISIT TO THE **EUROPEAN ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY**

The **second day** of the seminar started with a lecture on “The structure of the ENP: objectives, instruments, reviews” by **Prof. Sieglinde Gstöhl**, Director of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department at the College of Europe in Bruges.



The Seminar Students and the TEPSA Staff at the end of their visit at the EEAS on Day 2

Following the lecture, the participants headed to the Schuman Rondabout, the heart of the European district of Brussels, to attend two meetings at the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**. First, Richard Tibbels (Head of Division for Eastern Partnership – Bilateral Relations at the EEAS) gave an overview of the EU’s relations with its Eastern Neighbours and answered the participants’ questions concerning his duties and about the role of the EEAS in the implementation of the ENP. The second meeting saw Dr. **Colin Scicluna**, Director for Middle East and North Africa at the EEAS, discuss the actions of the European Union in the Southern Neighbourhood and relations with the Greater Middle East.

During the first afternoon session, Prof. **Laure Delcour**, Associate Professor at the University Paris3 – Sorbonne Nouvelle, gave a lecture on “A contested Neighbourhood: Russia and alternative integration projects”, focusing on the EU relations with Moscow and on Russia’s policies towards its “Near Abroad”.

The day concluded with a visit to the **European Endowment for Democracy**, where **Marie Camberlin** (Chief Programme Manager, EED), **Svitlana Kobzar** (Senior Programme Manager – East, EED) and **Veronika Kucherchuk** (Eastern Partnership Programme Assistant Coordinator, EED) illustrated the contribution of their organisation to democracy promotion in several countries of the Neighbourhood.



DAY 3

LECTURE BY FRANK SCHIMMELFENNIG

VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

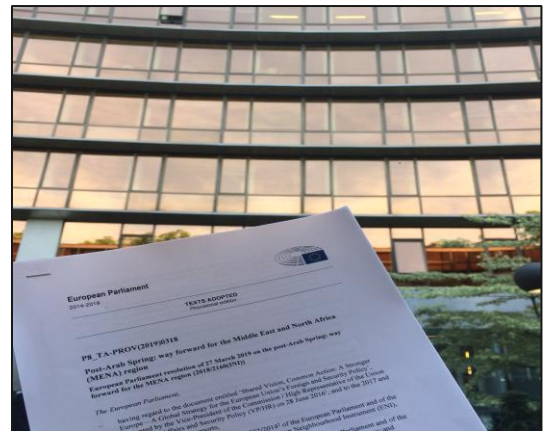
VISIT TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

At the beginning of the **third day**, the participants had the chance to exchange impressions on the visits and lectures attended in the first half of the seminar and to share their ideas on how they would reform the European Neighbourhood Policy.

The discussion led to Prof. Schimmelfennig's final lecture of the seminar. The participants were introduced to "The European Neighbourhood Policy toolbox: instruments and mechanisms of Europeanisation", which shed light on different ways the EU can use to promote democracy in the Neighbourhood countries and their relative effectiveness.

The EU@Work Seminar participants then headed to the **European Parliament's Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union**. Just a few steps away from TEPSA's headquarters, the seventeen students took part in a closed-door meeting with **Luca Di Preso**, **Perla Srouf Gandon** and **Rémi Pierot**, where they discussed the role of the European Parliament in the design and implementation of the European Neighbourhood Policy, and analysed a resolution adopted by the European Parliament concerning the Southern Neighbourhood.

The day closed with a meeting with **Vassilis Maragos**, Head of Unit C2 – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership of **DG NEAR** at the European Commission, which saw a fruitful discussion on the instruments of the Eastern Partnership from the perspective of the **European Commission**.



The resolution analysed during the visit to the European Parliament on Day 3



DAY 4

VISIT TO **CARNEGIE EUROPE**

CLOSING SESSION

FARAWELL LUNCH

During the final visit of the EU@Work Seminar, the seventeen international students had the pleasure to discuss the future of the European Neighbourhood Programme with **Marc Pierini**, Visiting Scholar at the **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – Brussels office**. Mr Pierini introduced the activity of the global think tank, expressed his thoughts on the EU's role in the Neighbourhood, and provided his knowledge and professional experience to answer a variety of thought-provoking questions by the students.

In the concluding session, participants had the chance to give their feedback on the seminar and to convey a key message to the EU by completing an anonymous questionnaire.

TEPSA would like to thank the participants for their contribution to the success of the seminar and for bringing their knowledge, ideas and enthusiasm. We are particularly grateful to all the practitioners for the time devoted to our group, for accepting to host us at their institutions and for sharing with us insights from their daily work. Finally, TEPSA would like to thank the Academic Coordinator, Frank Schimmelfennig, and the guest lecturers, Sieglinde Gstöhl and Laure Delcour, for enriching the seminar with their expertise.



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EU@Work Summer Seminar on the European Neighbourhood Policy

09-12 July 2019, Brussels

Agenda

Tuesday 09 July

Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room E. Francqui, Rue d'Egmont 11

- 14:30 - 15:00 Registration and coffee
- 15:00 – 16:00 Opening and introduction to the seminar, *by Prof Frank Schimmelfennig (Academic Coordinator of the Seminar, TEPSA & ETH Zürich) and the TEPSA Team*
- 16:00 - 18:00 Introductory lecture: 'Context, history and rationale of the European Neighbourhood Policy', *by Prof Frank Schimmelfennig*
- 18:30 Welcome drinks and info session about the European Solidarity Corps, *with Mr Lope Gallego (Programme Manager, Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission) and Ms Manon Levrey (former European Solidarity Corps participant)*
Venue: Ginette Bar, Place du Luxembourg 5

Wednesday 10 July

- 09:00 - 10:00 Lecture: 'The structure of the ENP: objectives, instruments, reviews' *by Prof Sieglinde Gstöhl (Director of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department, College of Europe Bruges)*
Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room E. Francqui
- 10:30 - 12:00 Visit to the **European External Action Service**: The EU Global Strategy and the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood *with Richard Tibbels (Head of Division for Eastern Partnership – Bilateral Relations, EEAS)*
Venue: EEAS, Rond Point Robert Schuman 9A
- 12:00 - 13:00 Visit to the **European External Action Service**: The EU Global Strategy and the EU's Southern Neighbourhood *with Colin Scicluna (Director for Middle East and North Africa, EEAS)*
Venue: EEAS, Rond Point Robert Schuman 9A
- 13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch break*



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- 14:00 - 15:00 Lecture: 'EU democracy promotion in the Neighbourhood' by *Prof Frank Schimmelfennig*
Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room E. Francqui
- 15:00 - 15:15 *Coffee break*
- 15:15 - 16:15 Lecture: 'A contested Neighbourhood: Russia and alternative integration projects' by *Prof Laure Delcour (Associate Professor, University Paris-3 Sorbonne Nouvelle)*
Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room E. Francqui
- 16:30 - 18:00 Visit to the **European Endowment for Democracy**: 'The role of civil society in the EU's Neighbourhood(s) with *Marie Camberlin (Chief Programme Manager, EED), Svitlana Kobzar (Senior Programme Manager – East, EED) and Veronika Kucherchuk (Eastern Partnership Programme Assistant Coordinator, EED)*
Venue: European Endowment for Democracy, Rue de la Loi 34

Thursday 11 July

- 09:30 - 10:15 Analysis & discussion in the group with *Prof Frank Schimmelfennig*
Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room E. Francqui
- 10:15-10:30 *Coffee break*
- 10:30-12:00 Lecture: 'The European Neighbourhood Policy toolbox: instruments and mechanisms of Europeanisation' by *Prof Frank Schimmelfennig*
Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room E. Francqui
- 12:00 - 13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 – 15:30 Visit to the **European Parliament**: Cooperation with the Southern Mediterranean with *Luca Di Preso, Perla Sroug Gandon and Rémi Piérot (Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union, European Parliament)*
Venue: European Parliament, SQM 05Y957, Square de Meeûs 8
- 16:00 - 18:00 Visit to the **European Commission**: The toolbox of the European Neighbourhood Policy with *Vassilis Maragos, Head of Unit C2 Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus & Eastern Partnership, DG NEAR, European Commission*
Venue: European Commission, DG NEAR, Rue de la Loi 15

Friday 12 July

- 09:30 - 11:00 Visit to **Carnegie Europe**: 'The future of the European Neighbourhood Policy' with *Marc Pierini, Visiting Scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – Brussels office*
Venue: Carnegie Europe, Rue du Congrès 15
- 11:30 – 12:30 Closing remarks and feedback from participants with *Prof Frank Schimmelfennig and the TEPSA Team*
Venue: Fondation Universitaire, Room D
- 12:30 *Farewell lunch at Fondation Universitaire*