

The EU and its Neighbours: In Search of New Forms of Partnership

With the support of:

European Commission, DG Education and Culture, Jean Monnet Action



Programme

Sounio – Greece, 3-6 July 2008

Thursday 3 July 2008

Arrival of participants – Check in at the Grecotel Cape Sounion hotel
(Tel: +30 22920 69700 Fax: +30 22920 69770 Email: reserv_so@grecotel.gr)

20:00 - 21:30 **Informal buffet dinner at the “Cape Sounio” restaurant**
on the first floor of the hotel’s main building

Friday 4 July 2008

9:00 - 10:00 **Welcome and Introduction**

Loukas Tsoukalis, Professor, University of Athens; President of ELIAMEP, Athens
Joachim Fritz-Vannahme, Director Europe, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Guetersloh

10:00 - 12:00 **SESSION 1 Improving our Partnership – Are We on the Right Track?**

Questions to be raised: What do the neighbours expect from the EU and what does the EU expect from its neighbours? Are the neighbouring countries and is the Union able to fulfil the expectations?

What are the strategic objectives behind cooperation? What role does the EU want to play in its direct neighbourhood?

Moderator: **Achilleas Mitsos**, Former Director General of DG Research, European Commission

Speakers: **Elmar Brok**, Member of the European Parliament, EPP, Brussels
Abdellatif Benachenhou, Professor of Economic Science, Former Minister of Finance of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Algier
Oleksandr Sushko, Research Director, Institute for Euro-Atlantic Co-Operation, Kyiv
Ivan Krastev, Chair of the Board of Directors, Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia

12:00 - 12:30 **Coffee Break**

12:30 - 14:30 **SESSION 2 Assessing the Existing Instruments and Fora**

Questions to be raised: What are the deficiencies and the strengths of the existing instruments/fora? Has EU conditionality reached its limits? How effective has economic aid been? How far can shared values take us? Do we need new instruments/fora or do we have to optimize the existing ones?

Do we need an “ENP-East” and an “ENP-South”?

Moderator: **Antonio Missiroli**, Director of Studies, European Policy Centre (EPC), Brussels

Speakers: **Andreas Herdina**, Head of Unit, European Neighbourhood Policy, DG External Relations, European Commission, Brussels
Dimitri Manjavidze, Deputy State Minister, State Minister’s Office for Reintegration, Government of Georgia, Tbilisi
Ibrahim Hegazy, Chairman, Department of Management, American University, Cairo

14:30 **Lunch** (*Cape Sounio restaurant on the first floor of the hotel’s main building*)

18:00 - 20:00 **SESSION 3 The “Union for the Mediterranean” – Old Wine in New Bottles?**

Questions to be raised: Will the “Union for the Mediterranean” enhance cooperation between the EU and its southern neighbours? Or will the “Union for the Mediterranean” be nothing more than the old “Barcelona Process” in a new disguise?

Moderator: **Nilgun Arisan-Eralp**, Director of the Secretariat General for European Union Affairs, Prime Ministry of Turkey, Ankara

Speakers: **Christophe Farnaud**, Ambassador of France to Greece, Athens
Theodoros Sotiropoulos, General Director for European Union Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens
Zaki Laïdi, Director of Research, Centre for European Studies, Sciences Po, Paris

20:30 **Dinner at “CAVO COLONES” terrace restaurant**

After dinner discussion on:

Europe After the Irish Referendum

introduced by **Dimitrios Katsoudas**, Secretary General for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens

Saturday 5 July 2008

9:30 - 11:30 **SESSION 4 Shaping the Agenda: Fields of Common Interest and Cooperation**

*Questions to be raised: How can the EU and its neighbours create win-win situations?
In which fields should the EU and its neighbours cooperate and what are concrete projects?
Should cooperation concentrate on economic progress rather than on political and social transformation?*

Moderator: **Fraser Cameron**, Director, EU-Russia Centre, Brussels

Speakers: **Energy** **John Roberts**, Energy Security Specialist, Platts Energy Group, London
Education **Sami Khasawneh**, Professor, Faculty of Educational Sciences, former Vice-President of Jordan University, Amman
Agriculture **Dieter Kirschke**, Professor, Humboldt University, Berlin
Migration **Catherine Wihtol de Wenden**, Research Director CNRS/CERI, Paris

11:30 - 12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00 - 14:00 **SESSION 5 Alternatives between Full Membership and Non-Membership – Fata Morgana or Silver Bullet?**

Questions to be raised: Is there a necessity to develop new forms of affiliation and cooperation beneath the level of full membership? Are concepts such as a “privileged membership”, “partial membership” or “extended associated membership” viable options?

Moderator: **Paweł Świeboda**, Director, demosEUROPA-Centre for European Strategy, Warsaw
Speakers: **Valeriu Ostalep**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Foreign Ministry of Moldova, Chisinau
Janis A. Emmanouilidis, Stavros Costopoulos Research Fellow, ELIAMEP, Athens
Barbara Lippert, Vice-Director, Institut fuer Europaeische Politik (IEP), Berlin

14:00 -14:30 **Concluding Remarks – Lessons and Perspectives**

Joachim Fritz-Vannahme, Director Europe, Bertelsmann Stiftung, Guetersloh
Loukas Tsoukalis, Professor, University of Athens; President of ELIAMEP, Athens

14:30 **Lunch at the “Cape Sounio” restaurant**
on the first floor of the hotel’s main building

19:00 Meeting at the hotel lobby
Guided visit to the sanctuary of Poseidon at Sounio followed by dinner at a fish tavern by the sea

Sunday 6 July 2008

Departure of participants