



From left to right:

Dr. Alexandros Yannis, Mr. Veton Surroi, Ambassador Dusan Batakovic & Professor Theodore Coulombis

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MA in Turkish-Greek Studies

The future status of Kosovo

Kosovo remains at the top of the European agenda and with negotiations on its future status currently underway, all parties involved are faced with sensitive decisions. On 11 January 2006, as part of ELIAMEP's continued efforts to promote public discussion on issues that challenge growth, stability and good neighbourly relations in the Balkans, a public discussion was held on **'The future status of Kosovo: Euro-Atlantic integration or a return to a time of conflict?'** This conference was organized in the context of the FONSİ project funded by the German Marshall Fund of the US and was designed to inform the Greek public about the views of the two negotiating partners.

Ambassador Dusan Batakovic, Special Adviser to President Tadic and Member of the Negotiating Team of Serbia referred to Kosovo as one of the most difficult inter-ethnic conflicts and a regional problem that requires a peaceful solution. He refuted any reference to the Serbian community as a minority not-

ing that any viable solution must protect the interests of both communities. Ambassador Batakovic also stressed Greece's key role as a factor of stability in the Balkans.

Mr. Veton Surroi, Leader of the ORA party and Member of the Kosovo Albanian Negotiating Team, observed that Kosovo, as an international protectorate has introduced a degree of self-rule. But, he noted, quasi-measures do not develop a culture of responsibility, accountability and ownership resulting in a rather dysfunctional system. He argued firmly that the question was no longer about whether Kosovo was going to be independent, but how this independence was to be set up, since independence is the way through which to establish a functioning, democratic state and to move further along the path to Euro-Atlantic integration.

Dr. Alexandros Yannis from the Council of the European Union in Brussels, stated that the current situation was no longer viable and that a solution had to be found under the

auspices of the UN. He emphasised that the EU will assist the UN envoy in his task and will also work with the USA, Russia and other regional actors, 'to ensure that Belgrade and Pristina find themselves closer to Brussels.'

Diplomats, journalists, leading experts, prominent academics and a large student audience took part in the public discussion that followed focusing primarily on the role of the EU, on the US involvement and on the status issue.

This event, along with ELIAMEP's non paper on **"Establishing a Serbian Orthodox Monastic Community (SOMC) in Kosovo"**, adds to the efforts to engage in a transparent and comprehensive discussion on the "future status" settlement.

It is in this context that ELIAMEP has been working in close contact with **Amb. Albert Rohan**, Deputy to UN Status Envoy **Martti Ahtissaari**, and also plans to organize a number of events and workshops on unfolding developments in the region.

Further information will be regularly provided on our website www.eliamep.gr



EU Commissioner

Dr. Olli Rehn

ELIAMEP Annual Lecture 2006**Dr. Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Enlargement**

ELIAMEP has the honour of announcing this year's Annual Lecture by **Dr. Olli Rehn**, EU Commissioner for Enlargement on **"Deepening and Enlargement: A False Dichotomy"**

The lecture will take place on **Thursday, 9 March 2006** at 12:30 at the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Participation is by invitation only. However, all interested in attending may contact :

ELIAMEP's Activities Department

Tel: 210 72 57 110, Email: activities@eliamep.gr

Useful facts:

- Elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council took place on 25 January 2006.
- Hamas won 74 of the 132 parliamentary seats.

Implications of the victory of Hamas in the Palestinian elections**Discussion with Professor Yezid Sayigh, King's College, London****Athens, 3rd February 2006**

Prof. Yezid Sayigh, Chair of Middle East Studies at King's College, London, discussed the implications of Hamas' victory with a group of experts on the Middle East, journalists and diplomats. The discussion focused on the reasons that led to this unexpected electoral victory, and on the potential consequences for Palestine's relations with Israel, the wider regional implications, and the reactions of the EU and the USA.

Dr. Sayigh pointed out a number of challenges that the new government is up against. First, Hamas needs to manage Palestine's economic recession and an institutionalised informal economy. In addition, given the international community considers it a terrorist organisation, Hamas faces the risk of the EU and the US choosing to withhold financial

assistance unless they renounce violence and recognise Israel. Closing the tap on these financial resources will certainly result in a huge economic meltdown given the state of the PA's economy.

Moreover, armed militants outside both Hamas and Fatah are capable of destabilising what Hamas is doing, by provoking disorder and violence in the streets.

Hamas is not expected to take a passive stance towards Israel's conduct in the West Bank and it will take a tougher position than Fatah in negotiations with Israel. Hamas wants to be considered as an important partner in the peace-process, and if it does play by the rules of the game, it is not self-evident that things will be worse than if Fatah had remained in power.

Paradoxically, Hamas' victory may also have positive impli-

cations for Palestine's internal political system since Parliament may in fact become a forum for political debate between government and opposition after its dormant state under Fatah. In any case, it is clear that the electoral victory of Hamas will necessarily influence the Israeli elections in March and that this will have longer-term repercussions for the entire region and particularly for Jordan.

Dr. Sayigh noted that Hamas' internal discipline may be a strength for the government in addressing immediate challenges— more effectively than Fatah has in the past. It was argued that, in time, Hamas might actually surprise us, not only with regards to providing efficient solutions to issues on the domestic front, but also in taking a "tougher line" on issues regarding Israel, a ceasefire, and a potential two-state solution.

Conflicts in 21st Century Africa**Conference organized in collaboration with the Embassy of South Africa****Athens, 31st January 2006**

South Africa's central role in assisting other African countries address the challenges of poverty, conflict and underdevelopment was the focus of this public discussion.

Mr Aziz Pahad, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, stressed that global poverty is increasing while the importance of human security has been underestimated. Calling for a fundamental change of approach to development, he spoke of a 'Renaissance of Africa' through initiatives addressing poverty, underdevelopment, conflict, health and education, economic and social issues,

the spread of weapons of mass destruction, international organised crime and terrorism. Reference was made to South Africa's initiative, NEPAD, and to the central role of the African Union in preventing conflicts, wars and genocides. While noting the progress achieved in many areas, and welcoming the election of the first woman President in Liberia, he expressed concern for the conflict currently underway in the Ivory Coast and the situation in Darfur. He concluded that 'South Africa cannot be an island of prosperity in a sea of poverty'.

Professor Couloumbis and Mr Pahad discussed the UN Secu-

rity Council reform, and Dr. Asteris Houliaras, Associate Professor of Geography at the Harokopio University of Athens, continued the discussion by drawing some interesting similarities between South Africa and Greece— two countries largely incomparable at first sight.

Dr. Thanos Dokos, ELIAMEP's Director of Studies, coordinated the public debate that followed between diplomats, academics and graduate students. The discussion concentrated on the role of multinational corporations in Africa and the extent to which they might be encouraged to re-invest in the region, as well as on the need for increased FDI.

The future of British – American security relations

Discussion with Dr. Bruce Newsome, RAND Corporation

Athens, 24th January 2006

In a closed discussion with security-sector experts and diplomats, Dr. Bruce Newsome presented the results of a project on the future of the US-UK security relationship. The project was designated to RAND Corporation by the British government in 2003.

Nine drivers have been identified by RAND's research team as the most determining levers of this relationship, both historically and in terms of their future significance: geography, institutions, democracy, UK military, UK foreign policy, UK domestic politics, economics, historical experiences and culture. The discussion con-

centrated on the extent of the UK government influence over these drivers and thus over the future of UK-US relations.

Dr. Newsome also compared the relative importance and inter-operability of the British and US military resources with other European countries, and in particular with France, Germany, the Netherlands and Greece. It was noted that the quality of the British military remains exceptionally valuable to the US. However, this is likely to decrease over the coming decade due to the growing capacity of the military forces of the countries of Central Europe.

Research by the RAND Corpo-

ration also suggests that while geography, democracy, common historical experiences and culture, may have been relevant to Anglo-American relations in the past and are certainly relevant in the current context, they are unlikely to bear much significance for the future. On the contrary, the UK military and UK foreign policy were identified as the most influential drivers of this relationship.

It was also argued that current trends in British domestic politics (particularly after Iraq) may challenge the future significance of the UK/US 'special relationship.'

ACTIVITIES DIARY

Key Forthcoming Events:

9 March - Athens

ELIAMEP 2006 Annual Lecture by EU Commissioner Dr. Olli Rehn

22 March - Athens

Public Discussion:

"Communicating with EU citizens. Can the gap be bridged?"

Organised in cooperation with SAFIA and EKEM and with the support of DG Education and Culture of the European Commission

30 March - Athens

Closed discussion on

"Immigrant civic participation in the EU today"

Organised with the support of DG Education and Culture of the European Commission and in the context of the POLITIS project

April - Thessaloniki

FONSI Workshop on "Sustaining the EU's Strategy in the Western Balkans"

Organised in cooperation with The Bertelsmann Foundation and with the support of the German Marshall Fund of the US

4 April - Athens

Discussion on EU enlargement with Dr. Laza Kekic, Regional Director for South-east Europe, EIU

For further information on ELIAMEP's events, either consult our website or contact our Activities Department (T. 210 72 57 110 or activities@eliamep.gr)

ELIAMEP NEWS: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ELIAMEP AND THE GULF RESEARCH CENTER (GRC)

Athens & Dubai, January 2006

ELIAMEP and the Gulf Research Center (GRC) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in pursuit of creating greater national, regional and international awareness on issues pertaining to security and stability in the Arabian Gulf region, the Greater Middle East and Greece.

The GRC is an independent research centre focusing on the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Through this Memorandum, the two partners aim at collaborating in research projects of mutual interest. In addition, ELIAMEP and the GRC will pool resources and provide technical assistance to national and sub-regional implementation plans relating to enhanced

security and sustainable development, and to strengthen interactions between civil society, government and inter-governmental institutions in the Arab Gulf region and Greece, and with the wider international community.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Thanos Dokos, Director of Studies (thanosdokos@eliamep.gr).

New Project Publications

EMEDIATE Project Report

"Europe and European Values in Greek and Spanish Media Studies from the 1950s until today" by Anna Triandafyllidou and Stella Ladi

All publications may be downloaded for free from our website www.eliamep.gr

POLITIS Working Papers

"Civic activation of immigrants - conceptual and theoretical issues." by Anna Triandafyllidou and Dita Vogel

"Opportunity structures for immigrants' active civic participation in the European Union: sharing comparative observations" by Norbert Cyrus, Ruby Gropas, Ankica Kosic and Dita Vogel

New Postgraduate Notes

PN06.02 "U.N. in Kosovo: 1999-2005 An assessment of international administration" by Ioannis Natsis

PN06.01 "Reflections on the European migration policy: Relations with countries of origin and transit" by Almuth Wardemann

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Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies

New forthcoming issue:

Benchmarking Political Governance in South-eastern Europe

Includes articles by:

Martin Brusis "Assessing the State of Democracy, Market Economy and Political Management in Southeastern Europe."

Adelheid Feilcke-Tiemann "Albania: Gradual Consolidation Limited by Internal Political Struggle."

Florian Bieber "Bosnia-Herzegovina: Slow Progress Towards a Functional State."

Siniša Kušić "Croatia: Advancing Political and Economic Transformation."

Heinz Willemsen "FYROM: Persisting Structural Constraints to Democratic Consolidation."

Martin Brusis "Serbia and Montenegro: Democratic Consensus Susceptible to Populist Actors."

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<http://www.eliamep.gr>



Halki International Seminars 2006

Europe: Mind the Gaps

21 - 25 June 2006

This year's Seminar will focus on the different gaps of European Integration and particularly on:

- the younger generations and EU integration;
- EU integration, social classes and interests;
- (re) connecting citizens with the EU project;
- further enlargement and public opinion in Member States;
- extending Pax Europea and preserving internal coherence.

The deadline for applications to present a paper or participate in the Seminar has been extended.

New Deadline: 24 March 2006

Applications are welcome from policy-makers, journalists, diplomats, members of parliament and young researchers (post-docs and PhD candidates in an advanced stage of their research).

For additional information on how to apply, please see our website www.eliamep.gr

NEWS!

ELIAMEP partnership with ISTANBUL BILGI UNIVERSITY: Masters in Greek-Turkish Studies

Istanbul Bilgi University is offering an MA in International Relations with a concentration in Greek-Turkish Studies.

The two-year graduate programme is intended for future academics, diplomats, journalists and government officials working or planning to work on different aspects of Turkish and Greek studies.

Deadline for applications:

30 April 2006

Scholarships for qualified Greek candidates are offered through the J.F. Costopoulos Foundation

For online application please visit <http://ces.bilgi.edu.tr/trgr.asp>

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