

# ECSA WORLD-NEWS

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## ECSA World

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*Dear colleagues,*

*Just returning from the annual conference of EUSA Asia-Pacific I wanted to thank also on that way the Presidents of the associations that invited me to this amazing experience. Together with the academic sessions we had also a Presidents' meeting with the representatives of 6 member associations. In a very positive way activities for the next 3 years were planned. And although there is a concern about declining interest for the European Studies, the panorama is impressive.*

*I had also occasion of having some talks to participants and there are good perspectives for the establishment of 3 new ECSAs.*

*May is always a relevant month for us. Europe's Day is convoking us to many events and information about some of them is here included (the April issue was finished on May 15th). I hope we can give in our next Newsletter accurate information about all the others*

*Best wishes,*

*Enrique Banús*

*President*

## ECSA World participated in the ECSA Italy International Conference

ECSA World took part on the AUSE (Associazione Universitaria di Studi Europei) International Conference "Representative Democracy and Political Participation. Towards a European Transnational Party System", held on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 at Palazzo del Bo (University of Padova).

The Conference aimed to confront the crucial issue of political parties' role in aggregating the political demand and orienting popular participation. So, among the main objectives of the ECSA Italy Annual Conference there were: to explore the hypothesis of the development of genuinely transnational European parties system, contribute to the renewal of the political culture of parties and explore the ways how European political parties can contribute to the development of a truly European demos and electorate, promoting a transnational aggregation of the political demand.

The last session "Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations in the Democracy Transition in the southern Mediterranean" was presented by ECSA World and attended by ECSA Secretary General Léonce Bekemans, Stefania Banebianco (University of Catania) and Peter De Perini (City University London).

*Information provided by president of ECSA Italy Marco Mascia*

## 2014 EUSA Asia Pacific Conference in Melbourne

EUSA AP (European Union Studies Association Asia Pacific) announced its Annual Conference "EU in the Shadow of Asia? Changing relationship between the EU and the Asia Pacific" that took place last 1st and 2nd of May in Melbourne, Australia.

The conference was organized together with ECSA Australia (Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia-CESAA) and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

The main goal of the event was the discussion around the emerging powers of Asia and the Asia Pacific platforms where academics could present their research into the Asia Pacific-EU relations. It's true to say that a growing emphasis on Asia as an economic and political powerhouse also has implications for how the EU deals with other regions and how other regions in turn align or realign their foreign policies. The event investigated from both an European and an Asia Pacific perspective the sub-themes "What is changing and what remains unchanged in relations between the EU and the Asia Pacific?", "How has a focus on Asia impacted other

countries policies towards the EU; and the EU's policies to other regions?", "How do financial and membership crises impact on the relationships between the EU and the Asia Pacific?".

On Friday morning ECSA World president Prof. Enrique Banús gave a plenary session called "Astonishment as starting point for the European Studies". Finally, the roundtable "EU-Asia, who is in the shadow whom?" concluded the Annual Conference on Saturday morning. It was chaired by the Director of the European Union Centre at RMIT University Prof. Bruce Wilson and the participants were the ECSA Vice-president Martin Holland (also president of ECSA New Zealand), Simon Smith (European Commission for Education and Culture, and Visiting Fellow at the Centre for European Studies, Australian National University), Dr Kasia Williams (also Visiting Fellow at the Centre for European Studies, Australian National University) and Prof. May-Britt (from the Research Group "Asian Perceptions of the EU " at Freie Universität Berlin).

*Information provided by Yvonne Grosch, NCRE (National Centre for Research on Europe) Administrator*

## United Kingdom ECSA will participate on the 'Europe in Crisis Project' in London

Within the framework of the "Europe in Crisis Project", ECSA UK (UACES-Academic Association for Contemporary European Studies) and King's Policy Institute are jointly organizing the event "Implications of the European Parliament Elections" that will take place on Monday 9 of June at King's College London. The event will be composed of a roundtable chaired by Professor Anand Menon, followed by the award ceremony for the 2014 Reporting Europe Prize.

The event, that is part of King's Policy Institute, will be lead by Anand Menon, Professor of European Politics & Foreign Affairs, and Sir Nigel Sheinwald,

visiting Professor and former UK Ambassador to the EU and US.

The main goal of the initiative is to contribute directly to public and political debates on the future of Europe through a number of high-profile events and roundtables which will examine the continuing political, financial, and social turbulence across the continent.

To register for the event, it has to be sent an email to [admin@uaces.org](mailto:admin@uaces.org) with name and affiliation by Wednesday 4 June 2014.

*Information provided by UACES Press*

## Polish ECSA celebrated the 10th anniversary of Poland in the EU

In order to celebrate the Day of Europe, ECSA Poland (PECSA) organized the conference "10 years of Poland's membership in European Union-an easement and perspectives" that took place on 14th of May. Some of the participants were: Prof. Ewa Latoszek, President of ECSA Poland (Warsaw School of Economics), Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski, Prof. Andrzej Stępnia (University of Gdańsk) and Prof. Dariusz Rosati Warsaw School of Economics.

*Information provided by Aleksandra Borowicz, PECSA, University of Gdańsk*



## Short ECSA news

**ECSA Argentina:** As President of ECSA Argentina Roberto Stocco has informed to ECSA World News, the association has a new web site.

**“[www.ecsaargentina.com.ar](http://www.ecsaargentina.com.ar)”**

**ECSA Canada:** The 10th European Community Studies Association-Canada (ECSA-C) biennial conference was hosted by the Université de Montréal and held in Montreal from 8-10 May 2014. The conference theme was “Europe and Peace”. The event was organized with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union.

**ECSA France:** It has been published a book from the abstracts of the 2012 ECSA France Annual Conference in Rennes "The third state rights of the European Union".

The conference was organized together with the European Research Centre of Rennes and the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence in Rennes.

## President and Vice-president of ECSA World spoke at New Zealand Parliament

Within the framework of the 64th Europe Day commemoration, ECSA World President Enrique Banús and Vice-president Martin Holland were panel speakers at the Parliament in Wellington.

On 7 May, a round table of European Ambassadors and scholars, including EU Chargé d'Affaires Michalis Rokas, Polish Ambassador Beata Stoczynska, British High Commissioner Vicki Treadell, German Ambassador Anne-Marie Schleich, Professor Enrique Banús, as well as Professor Martin Holland, presented their views on the historic 2014 European Parliamentary Elections, what they mean for European integration and for the EU's role in the world.



More than two hundred people attended the event, which was part of the commemoration of the 64th Europe Day, the 10th anniversary of EU Enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe and the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Delegation of the European Union in New Zealand.

The event was hosted by Mr Paul Goldsmith, MP, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs Wellington Branch and the NZ European Union Centres Network with support from EU Heads of Mission.

It was the first time in the history of ECSA that a president and a vice-president speak before a Parliament.



# ECSA World president's speech in Wellington

**These are the words that ECSA World President Enrique Banús pronounced at the New Zealand Parliament on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2014**

Wellington, May 7th 2014

Decades ago Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, the founder of the Paneuropa Union after WWI, wrote: "Europe is unifying in the Ministries but not in the heart of the citizens".

This sentence could be transferred to nowadays situation and, in fact, one of the main fears in front of the election to the EP is how many citizens will go for voting.

The European integration is for sure not perfect, has made errors and failures, but why do the citizens not recognize the revolutionary progresses made in the last half century?

Let me mention only two:

A) the period since WWII is in Western/Central Europe the longest peace period since the III century. It is for sure not only the consequence of the European integration, but it is for sure also the consequence of the European integration.

B) coming to New Zealand via the United States and Australia, at the end, when arriving back home, I will have lost around one working day staying in lanes for immigration and customs formalities. You may imagine how many working days are lost daily in that formalities. If a travel from Barcelona to Berlin via Rome and Paris, nobody will ask me why I am coming and what I am bringing. Of course, border controls are needed, but the citizens' experience of being home in different countries is paradoxically increasing if nobody is there for saying Welcome to the others' country.

Why do people not appreciate these advantages? Why the European integration is seen as part of the problem and not of the solution?

Let me mention five hypotheses:

A) advantages are taken very soon for granted; difficulties and problems are perceived critically;

B) expectations towards the EU are very high, and sometimes the EU is awakening expectations it is unable to fulfill; see for example the unemployment issue and specific the youth unemployment;

D) major failures have been, for example in the late and timid reaction to the economic crisis; in some issues in the external policy it was not easy to listen to the European voice

E) sometimes the EU has not the competences for facing the problems but for governments it is easy to transfer responsibility to "Brussels"

F) population is taking distance generally from politics and politicians, and sometimes the leaders of the European institutions seem not to be great personalities with charisma and a stimulating discourse.

Nevertheless, the European integration is the best model for Europe we have. It can only be developed with the citizens' support. How to get it?

A) with a convincing project that included -as it was done in the origins of this projects- shifts of paradigms, new ways of approaching the problems,

B) with a convincing communication

C) with convincing political leaders

D) and including the European integration as such in the School curricula. Being the European integration a novum, it has to be understood - it's not enough to transmit here and there some knowledge about it. Therefore, the School has to include it in an age in which mental categories are formed. Only so citizens can be formed who support what is worthy to be supported and constructively criticize what deserves to be criticized.

And this is needed not only for the Member States but also for all the states that are interested in a peaceful and open Europe. And in that sense, please, accompany us critically, open and positive in this experiment.