



Riga Graduate School of Law

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RECON WP 2 - INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

„European Integration – Challenges and Visions from the Baltic Perspective: debates on the Future of Europe from the Constitutional to the Lisbon Treaty and beyond“

Programme

Hosts:

*Riga Graduate School of Law in cooperation with
Latvian Diplomatic Mission in Republic of Belarus*

***ARENA – Centre for European Studies, University of Oslo supported by the RECON, 6th Framework
Programme of the European Union***

Venue: Riga Graduate School of Law, Riga, Latvia
Date: **November 20-21, 2008**

The debates on the future of the European Union following the recent waves of enlargement marked by ratification drawbacks of Constitutional and Lisbon treaties have revealed a deeply contested nature and visions of the ongoing institutional reforms and process of constitutionalisation of the Union. The divergent conceptions of a role of a state and supranational democracy at the national and European levels determine the vectors of future of the European integration and conceptualisation of the democracy.

On the basis of different normative models and their operationalisation, RECON tests three options for the reconstitution of democracy in the European Context.

- Can democracy in Europe be reconstituted at the national level, with a concomitant reframing of the EU as a **functional regulatory regime**?
- Can democracy be reconstituted through establishing the EU as a **federal state** based on a collective identity?
- Can democracy in Europe be reconstituted through developing a **post-national Union** with an explicit cosmopolitan imprint?

The workshop aims to bring together leading experts from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and other countries to explore the EU's constitutional future and prospects for supranational democracy in the EU from a particular Baltic perspective. The workshop will explore the positions, priorities and discourses among the main political, social and economic actors from all three Baltic countries on ongoing Treaty reforms and recent and future enlargements of the European Union. The separate section of the workshop will be devoted to the issue of Eastern enlargement of the EU with the focus on EU cooperation with Belorussia, Ukraine and Russia.

Through analyzing constitutional and legal-institutional adaptations at the national levels as well as the role of the intermediary organizations and mass media in each country the workshop seeks to explain and compare the prospects for supranational democracy in Europe as conceptualized by three RECON models among three selected Baltic countries. Therefore, the main issues to be addressed at the workshop are:

- What are the position of the main political and social/economic actors from Baltic countries on the reform of the European Union *i.e. what are the 'visions'/understanding of the legal-political construction of the European Union in the context of the ongoing reform of the founding Treaties and recent and possible further enlargements.*
- Building on the RECON models what are the Baltic countries position on the further construction and reform of the European Community and understanding of the meaning/functioning of the supranational democracy.
- What are the models of co-operation and the position of the national actors from Baltic countries on the the Eastern non-EU member countries, specifically Belarus.

The workshop is organised around five thematic panels that focus on the EU reforms as follows: on national legal - constitutional dimensions (Panel 1); on the socio-economic dimension (Panel 2), on the neighbourhood policy dimension (Panel 3); on the political dimension (Panel 4); and finally, on the public mass media dimension (Panel 5).

November 20, 2008

09.30 – 10.00	Registration and Coffee
10.00 – 11.00	Opening of the Workshop
10.00 – 10.15	Prof. Dr. iur. Lesley Jane SMITH Rector, Riga Graduate School of Law
10.15 – 10.45	Reconstituting Democracy in Europe Prof. Dr. John Erik FOSSUM Senior Researcher, University of Oslo, ARENA - Centre for European Studies
10.45 – 11.00	Discussion
11.00– 12.45	<u>Panel 1:</u> Challenges from national Constitutions and legal dilemmas in the process of debates on European Union reforms.
11.00 – 11.10	Moderator: Prof. Dr. iur. Thomass SCHMITZ Guest lecturer of the DAAD at the University of Latvia
11.10 – 11.35	The EU Constitutional Treaty and the Lisbon Treaty: the Matrix Reloaded? Dr. Irmantas JARUKAITIS, Researcher, University of Vilnius
11.35 – 12.00	Legal scholarship in the Baltic states: Prospects for effective participation in European governance discourse Dr. Anneli ALBI, Senior Lecturer, University of Kent
12.00 – 12.25	Collisions between the European Union and national legal norms; and the general principles of law Dr. Daiga ILJANOVA, Associate professor, University of Latvia
12.25 – 12.45	Comments and discussion
12.45 – 13.30	Buffet lunch
13.30 – 15.40	<u>Panel 2:</u> Intermediaries in the political process: role, structure and positions of interest groups in deliberations on Europe.
13.30 – 13.40	Moderator: Dr. ELMAR RÖMPCZYK Coordinator of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung for Baltic countries
13.40 – 14.05	Irena KALNINA, Legal Counsel, Latvian Telecommunications and Post Office Worker's Trade Union
14.05 – 14.30	Overcome the gap in social trust

Peep PETERSON, Chairman of the Board, Estonian Trade Union of Transport Workers

14.30 – 14.55

Alda OZOLA-MATULE, Chairwoman, Latvian Green Movement NGO

14.55 – 15.20

Collision of interests over the North Stream: the policy means to manage the divergence of corporate, national, regional and European perspectives within the Union

Dr. Csaba TÖRÖ

15.20 – 15.40

Comments and Discussion

15.40 – 16.00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 18:10

Panel 3: Eastern borders and the enlarging EU: the current situation and future perspectives

16.00 – 16.10

Moderator:

16.10 – 16.35

Future of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the first generation of “enhanced agreements” with the neighbouring countries: Cases of Ukraine and Russia

Prof. Dr. Roman PETROV, Professor, Donetsk National University;
Chairman of the Ukrainian European Studies Association

16.35 – 17.00

EU Neighbourhood Policy Towards Belarus: Challenges and Future Prospective

Aliaksei ANISHCHANKA and Maryia YURYEVA, Belarusian State University

17.00 – 17.25

Comparative-legal analysis of European and Belorussian conflict-of-laws provisions

Dr. Alena BABKINA, Head of the Department of the International Private and European Law, Belarusian State University

17.25 – 17.50

European Union and Belarus: Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

Dr. Vadzim SAMARIN, Associate Professor, Chair of Criminal Procedure, Belarusian State University

17.50 – 18.10

Comments and Discussion

19.00 – 20.30

Reception at the Riga Graduate School of Law

09:15 – 09.45	Registration and Coffee
09.45 – 11.55	<u>Panel 4.</u> National MS interests vs. Baltic regional interest vs. European? Perspectives and parameters of cooperation between national and European levels on EU.
09.45 – 09.55	Moderator: Prof. Dr. Zaneta OZOLINA Head of Department of Political Science, Director of Advanced Institute of Social and Political Research University of Latvia.
09.55 – 10.20	Latvian and European interests in the Eastern partnership initiative Dr. Toms ROSTOKS, University of Latvia
10.20 – 10.45	Is the Common House of Europe Being Built on Democratic Foundations? Vytautas Sirijos GIRA, Analyst, Centre for Eastern Geopolitical Studies, Lithuania
10.45 – 11.10	Interests and possibilities for a Baltic cooperation in legal matters in the EU Dr. Christoph SCHEWE, DAAD-Lecturer, University of Tartu
11.10 – 11.35	Representation of National Interests in the EU and Organisational Infrastructure for the Coordination of MSs National Opinion. <i>The Case of Administration of the European Agricultural Fund's of the Rural Development Amount for Lithuania</i> Živilė ŠUKYTE, Chief Specialist, Ministry of the Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania; PhD candidate and lecturer, Vytautas Magnus University.
11.35 – 11.55	Comments and Discussion
11.55 – 12.45	Buffet lunch
12.45 – 15.00	<u>Panel 5:</u> Deliberative public sphere - a wishful thinking or an emerging reality? Role of the Baltic mass media in communicating European debate to the publics.
12.45 – 12.55	Moderator: Prof. Dr. Inta BRIKŠE Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia
12.55 – 13.20	The role and future of professional journalism in deliberative public sphere. Baltic media perspective Dr. Halliki HARRO-LOIT, Head of Institute of Journalism and Communication, University of Tartu

13.20 – 13.45	<p>How does the ‘going local’ work in practice? Disclosing EU news and information management processes – from Brussels’ institutions to the publics in Lithuania</p> <p>Ausra VINCIUNIENE, Ph.D. Candidate and Lecturer at the Faculty of Political Science and Diplomacy at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), Lithuania.</p>
13.45 – 14.10	Ansis BOGUSTOVS, Journalist
14.10 – 14.30	Comments and Discussion
14.30 – 15:30	<p>Closing of the Workshop – Round Table Discussion</p> <p>Prof. Dr. iur. Lesley Jane SMITH Prof. Dr. John Erik FOSSUM Prof. Dr. iur. Thomass SCHMITZ Dr. Elmar RÖMPCZYK Prof. Dr. Zaneta OZOLINA Prof. Dr. Inta BRIKŠE</p>