

## EIN NEWSLETTER

### Events of the Network

**2-3 May 2010.** EIN Seminar in Rome organized with Farefuturo “Political values and individual expectations: how to bridge the gap”

12 May 2010. EIN Breakfast Meeting in Brussels. “The US and the global issues”

12 May 2010. Special Hearing on *Europe 2020 Strategy* with participation of EIN experts.

### EIN Research and Debates:

The **EIN Breakfast meeting on “Youth Expectations in Europe”** took place in Brussels on 14 April 2010. It has been the occasion to comment a paper by Sara Pini sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and the CES, as a follow-up of previous research carried out by Sara Pini, Anna Stellingner and Raphaël Wintrebert at the Fondation pour l’Innovation politique. The breakfast meeting focused on political participation of the younger generations.

Previous surveys have demonstrated the existence of new expectations among young people:

- the central importance of working life ;
- the importance of autonomy, with the need to benefit from direct support for their personal career plans (some countries have made the experience to channel directly to the youth the social benefits that their parents used to get from them. Most of those experiences are considered positive)
- the need for job security ;
- the demand for the State to step in ;

Those expectations do not translate in more participation in the elections. The participation of younger generations in elections, including European election, is in overall decline. According to a survey carried out in 27 members states, the low turnout cannot be related to election fatigue (recent elections just before), ways of voting (compulsory vote or not), size of constituency or historical experience of voting in the country. Neither can it be related to lack of popularity of the European institutions: the European Parliament is a popular institution among young people in most countries. There are even demands for a more active engagement of the Parliament or demands to have full-time MEPs, with demonstrated experience in European affairs. Abstention among younger voters has a clear protest dimension:

- protest against national policies or governments,
- protest against “this Europe”,
- protest against political life as usual.

Young people have no problem with engagement or public interest: they volunteer, they join in strikes; they mobilize through the internet and on the occasion of petition; they support referendum or local consultations. They do not even have a problem with representative democracy as such. But they wish that their vote matters. According to Sara Pini this is the reason why they look for:

- policy debates on subject of immediate relevance for them ;
- clear political options, with clear victory or defeat at the end of the process;
- well-declared interest policies : who will benefit, who will loose ?

**The EIN Seminar on the Future of Pan-European Political forces** took place in Brussels on 29 April as a joint-venture with CES, the EPP Party Political Foundation. The discussion started with the presentation of Wojciech Gagatek (Warsaw University) work, *European Political Parties as Campaign Organisations*, CES, 2009. His intervention was followed by comments derived from the lessons of the last election by Antonio Lopez-Isturiz, EPP Party Secretary-General, Christian Kremmer, EPP Party Deputy Secretary-General, Luc Vandeputte, EPP Party Deputy Secretary-General, Tomi Huhtanen, CES Director, Roland Freudenstein, CES Head of Research.

According to Wojciech Gagatek, *“what could increase the influence of the Europarties without treaty reform is the previously mentioned further politicisation of EU business, both policy and office-seeking, along the Left-Right continuum, not only in the Parliament but also in the other EU institutions. The literature has widely discussed how such a revolution could change not only the way the EU works, but also how it could serve as catalyst for greater interest in EU politics among European citizens. From the point of view of the Europarties, such a change would at the same time provide them with great opportunities, and this would be possible without a radical shift in the EU institutional architecture. Not only might the citizens become more interested in their activities but, even more importantly, the Europarties would become highly relevant to their member parties, which would voluntarily wish to be a part of the winning coalition of national parties under the aegis of their Europarties, both concerning policy and office-seeking. In this context, the most important question relates to the nomination of the President of the European Commission along party lines”*.

It was stated that the brand awareness of the EPP Party remains poor and that there is still reluctance in Member States among affiliate parties to walk under its banner. For this reason, the EPP Party, with limited financial resources, could not behave

as a genuine campaign organization during the last European election. It played more the role of a facilitator with a pick and choose menu of policy options and opinion research available for national campaign managers. After the campaign it keeps this role of a facilitator, for instance, between ministers of the affiliate parties taking part in the different councils of ministers in Brussels. Further moves such as the designation by the Pan-European Parties of a candidate for the President of the Commission (as the EPP Party and the EPP Group did for Barroso in 2009), incentives for public TV channels to broadcast European debates, and even a pan-European voting list for 10% of the members of the EP could be supported. But what matters the most is to be able to define positions to be identified with and to fight for them.

Franck Debié, EIN Policy Director

## On the EIN Website

### The Greek Crisis and its aftermath

**Ross Walker**, *“Greece : what needs to be done ? - Short-term financial support”*, *Food for Thought* n° 2

**Jacques Delpla**, *“Addressing the Greek Crisis and the Balance of Payments Crisis in the Mediterranean countries”*, *Food for Thought* n°3

### From the EIN Network:

**Thierry Chopin (dir), Michel Foucher (dir)**, *L’Etat de L’Union 2010, Rapport Schuman sur l’Europe*, Paris, Lignes de Repères, 2010

**Fernando Fernandez (dir), Fernando Navarette (dir)**, *The Reform of the International Financial System*, Foreword by Jose Maria Aznar, Madrid, FAES, 2009