

With the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union

Project no. 177316-LLP-1-2010-DE-ERASMUS-ENWA

LISBOAN

Linking Interdisciplinary Integration Studies by Broadening the European Academic Network

10th Guest Lecture

Prof. Dr. Michael Kaeding,
University of Duisburg-Essen (Partner no. 23)
hosted by
Prof. Dr. Francesc Morata,
IBEI, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Partner no. 49)

Deliverable No. D87add

June 2013, Project month 32

Dissemination level: Public

Funding Disclaimer: This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

LISBOAN GUEST LECTURE – Prof. Michael Kaeding at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 9 June 2013

VENUE: Representation of EU Commission in Barcelona

DATE: 9/6/2013

TIME: 16:00 – 17:30 PM

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 20

TYPE OF PARTICIPANTS: MA students in EU Integration; undergraduate students of BA in Political Science

On June 9th, 2013, Prof. Michael Kaeding (University of Duisburg-Essen) held a Guest Lecture hosted by Prof. Francesc Morata (IBEI, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). The lecture was entitled “European regions and EU lawmaking post-Lisbon – rebalancing the institutional equilibrium”. Prof. Kaeding began by outlining the main source of his presentation, a study commissioned by the Committee of the Regions (CoR), carried out by the European Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht (EIPA, co-authored with Dr Sabina Lange). The study’s main goal was to explore possibilities for intensified inter-institutional cooperation between the CoR and selected EU institutions following a broadened principle of institutional balance.

The first part of his presentation dealt with four of the main EU institutions: the Commission, the Parliament, the Council and the European Council. With a view to the Commission, he recommended broader participation rights for CoR representatives in Commission expert groups, particularly when the preparation of delegated and implementing acts is concerned or if there are concerns over the observation of the subsidiarity principle. Turning to the European Parliament, Prof. Kaeding identified a similar need for enhanced cooperation and suggested an annual meeting of the Conference of Presidents of the EP and the President and Vice-Presidents of the CoR. With a view to the Council, he proposed laying down joint priorities in each 18-month programme of trio presidencies. He argued that dossiers for closer cooperation should already be agreed with each Permanent Representative once he or she comes into office. Finally, as far as the European Council is concerned, Prof. Kaeding argued that current practices have been sufficient but could be formalized further.

The second part of the lecture dealt with the “agencification” of the EU and how the CoR could react to this development. Prof. Kaeding argued that (i) CoR representatives could be assigned seats at the respective Management Board of each (relevant) agency, that (ii) the CoR could be engaged in the assignment of key personnel including Advisory Groups, and that (iii) ways could be found to make the agencies’ know-how available to the CoR.

The subsequent discussion was focused on the new opportunities provided by the Treaty of Lisbon to achieve an enhanced influence within the institutional framework. Despite the improvements provided by the Treaty, some of the participants pointed to the structural weaknesses of the CoR to perform its institutional tasks.