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## **LISBOAN**

### **Linking Interdisciplinary Integration Studies by Broadening the European Academic Network**

## **11<sup>th</sup> Guest Lecture**

Paul Meerts and Ida Manton  
Institute for International Relations “Clingendael” (Partner 62)  
hosted by  
Marjan Svetlicic  
University of Ljubljana (Partner 48)

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**Negotiating in the EU after the introduction of Lisbon Treaty  
Particularities of multiparty negotiations, taking into consideration their cultural  
particularities: Can Lisbon Treaty “rule over” national states?**

**23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

The Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana has organised two lectures on how the negotiations and distribution of power have changed in the EU after the Lisbon Treaty entered into force. The lectures have been organised for the general public, but the main target were students of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of European Studies and International Relations. However, because of general interest in the topic, there were also some external participants in the lectures. In total, about 55 persons attended the events.

The first lecture was held by Paul Meerts, who explained the difficulties of multilateral negotiations in a multi-national system such as the EU. His main point was that multilateral negotiations are always a difficult task for the negotiator. Nevertheless, before the promulgation of the Lisbon Treaty, such negotiations were, because of the required consensus, more problematic than after 2009. On the other hand, he argued that the importance of the EU as a global player, which was highlighted with the Lisbon Treaty, opened new tasks in the multilateral negotiations, especially linked to the European External Actions Service. Meerts also discussed the role and the capabilities of the EEAS to enter into the multilateral negotiations, especially when the sovereignty of national states is taken into consideration. As he pointed out, the key role of the diplomatic representation was to establish mutual trust, which was the main factor of success in negotiations. According to him, trust in the EU was established also through the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, which was adopted by heads of states and confirmed in some countries by referenda, representing the highest power of political decision-making. Meerts received several questions from the public on the role of negotiations in the enlarged post-Lisbon Community and in final instance received a loud applause.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of September, the lecture on Post-Lisbon situation in the EU was held by Ida Manton, who presented the main changes the Lisbon Treaty introduced in the functioning of EU institutions and the issue of cross-cultural communications in multiparty negotiations. As presented by Manton, one of the problems in multilateral negotiations stems from the cross-cultural communication. Taking into consideration that the EU has 28 member states, in her view it was clear that next to particular (national) interests, cross cultural communications can hinder the success of the multiparty negotiations. That is why Manton argued that it was necessary to raise awareness of the advantages of the post-Lisbon structure and practices which are offered by the post-Lisbon EU system.

After the lecture, Manton organised a short simulation on multilateral multiparty negotiations within the EU. There were attributed roles of EU member states and main organs, which were trying to find out some possible valuable solutions. Through this experiment, the participants were familiarized with the problems of the multiparty negotiations in the cross-cultural environment, such as the European Union.

*Boštjan Udovič, University of Ljubljana*