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LISBOAN

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

First Guest Lecture

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First LISBOAN Guest Lecture, 25-26 November 2011, Plovdiv University, Bulgaria

Reference: Visit of Prof. Dr. Eugene Eteris from Riga Stradina University to Plovdiv University

Dates: 24.11.2011 arrival, 27.11.2011 departure.

Host: Assoc.Prof. Dr. Valentin Petroussenko, Plovdiv University

In the framework of the LISBOAN Guest Lecture programme, Prof. Dr. Eugene Eteris from Riga Stradina University visited Plovdiv University, Bulgaria. Hosted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Valentin Petroussenko of the university's Department of History, the lectures were primarily aimed at young researchers in the area of EU studies and dealt with the Lisbon Treaty from a number of perspectives.

During his stay, Prof. Eteris delivered two lectures:

1. "EU after Lisbon Treaty – International Cooperation in the Area of Economy, Law and Business"
2. "EU's Legal Order Within the International Law Framework – Specific Contemporary Relationships"

The lectures took place on 25th November 2012, 13-16:30h, University Library, and 26th November 2012, 11-12:30h., Seminar Room 20, and were attended by 17 students of Bachelor degree (on the first lecture) and twelve students (on the second lecture, mainly Master Studies and one doctoral student). The students came from the fields of history, political science and management. The presentations led to lively discussions among participants, with many questions asked from the audience.

The first lecture dealt with the mechanisms of current economy crisis and the legal parameters of solving the stability of the Eurozone. The lecturer answered the questions of the audience regarding the ability of the EU business to act coherently in view of the fragmented markets and financial insecurity. Other interesting points of discussions were the reassessment of credibility of the financial rating made by leading US banking institutions and how this can affect entire European economies.

The second lecture made broad justification how EU legal dynamics are reflecting on the challenges of the new multipolar international order. The students of MA course on Diplomacy and International Relations were interested how the new dimension of strategic cooperation between USA and Russia is built, what are the strategic goals of the new international politics actors, such like China or India and how the fragile balance of powers is affected by the Arab Spring events.

Prof. Eteris also provided the students with important data, book references and recommended links to some leading research institutions on EU matters.

During his stay at Plovdiv University, Prof. Eteris also used the opportunity for introductory visits to the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History, Prof. Maria Shnitter, and the Chair of

the Department of History, Prof. Ivan Djambov. Rounding off the programme, the host organized an excursion to cultural heritage sites in the Plovdiv neighborhood (the Medieval “Tzar Assen Castle” near Assenovgrad, and one of the two most important religious shrines in the Bulgarian Orthodox Church – the Monastery of Bachkovo).

The impact of the lecture was very good and the goals of the visit and lecturing were fulfilled successfully. The interaction among the visiting lecturer and the host institution staff and audience enabled better knowledge about current EU policies and opened fruitful discussions. The opportunity to meet another academic community and to promote the debate on pivotal issues of post Lisbon Treaty EU politics also proved a very enriching experience.