

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

8th Guest Lecture

Dr. Sabina Kajnč Lange,
European Institute of Public Administration (Partner no. 37)
hosted by
Marjan Svetlicic,
Centre of International Relations, University of Ljubljana (Partner no. 48)

Deliverable No. 64

November 2012, Project month 26

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, 28 November 2012, 16 h, Ljubljana

In the framework of the LISBOAN Guest Lecture programme, Dr. Sabina Kajnč Lange, European Institute of Public Administration, the Netherlands, visited the Centre of International Relations, University of Ljubljana. The LISBOAN guest lecture was titled 'EU Institutions after the Lisbon treaty: surprising winners and losers?'.

The purpose of a lecture was to give an assessment of the changes to the inter-institutional balance in the European Union following the changes to the institutions and the decision-making procedures introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. The lecture took place on the occasion of third anniversary of entry into force of the Treaty. Three years is a short time in a life of (an) institution(s), however, trends and implementation realities in some areas already offer a preliminary assessment of the intended and unintended changes to the inter-institutional balance in the EU following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty.

The lecture started with a background against which the changes to the institutional prerogatives were conceived, developed and finally formalized under the 'single institutional framework' (Preamble, Treaty on European Union, recital 7). An overview of the changes to the institutional framework (adding the European Council among the EU institutions) and to the composition, structures, nomination and working methods (as appropriate) for the European Council, the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament were presented.

In the next step changes to the legislative procedures were presented and discussed with recent examples which illustrate intended and unintended changes to the institutional balance. The no-longer-exclusive right of initiative by the Commission was illustrated through the process of the adoption of the European Protection Order. The role of national parliaments was brought in as well and their activities and the first 'yellow card' issue were discussed. Expansion of the ordinary legislative procedure was complemented with tensions in the field of fisheries resulting from the divergent views among the European Parliament and the Council over the choice of the legal base. Looking into the quasi- and post-legislative procedures, divergence of views among the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament over the use of delegated and implementing acts was discussed, supported by real-life examples from recent regulations. Finally, changes in procedures of concluding agreements with third actors were presented and the role of the European Parliament was discussed, using the SWIFT and PNR agreements with the United States as examples.

To conclude, the 'winners' and 'losers' were summarized in a table, first following the analysis of the Treaty's changes to the institutional prerogatives and then following the three years of Treaty's being in force. Recent speeches of Herman van Rompuy and Martin Schulz were juxtaposed to show the divergence of views among the institutional actors on the position of their respective institutions following the entry into force of the Treaty.

Finally, a look beyond or outside of the Treaty, into changes in economic governance, opened a completely new level of a discussion.

The lecture was attended by roughly 60 people, most of them students.

Dr. Sabina Lange