

## Report

### **LISBOAN Working Group Workpackage IV (WP Leader: Wilfried Loth)**

#### **”The Lisbon Treaty in a coute, moyenne and longue durée perspective”**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, 15.30 - 17.00 h**

The debate of the working group was based on a presentation by Nicolae Paún (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania) on “The Lisbon Treaty in the perspective of the new member states”.

The chair *Jean-Marie Majerus* (Centre d'études et de recherches Robert Schuman, Luxembourg) provided some introductory remarks on changes that the Lisbon Treaty brought about from an historical perspective.

After introducing himself and his institution to the audience, Nicolae Paún argued that the historical perspective on Lisbon so far had been the least widely exploited area in the specialised literature, as opposed to cultural, institutional and politico-juridical perspectives. However, the history making quality of the new Treaty, in particular for the new members states, should not be underestimated.

He substantiated this view by turning to the perception in the new member states of the developments subsequently culminating with the coming into force of Lisbon Treaty. He pointed out that for the public at large with the Lisbon Treaty the “dream of the European unification” was achieved. From a historian’s perspective the Lisbon Treaty was the final point of a transition period starting with the end of the Cold War in 1989/90 in the central and east European countries. This period, coming to a close with a treaty which completed the inclusion of middle and eastern European countries into the EU and for the first time saw their full participation in the treaty revision process, could be called a success story.

Subsequently, Prof. Paun elaborated on the ratification processes of the Treaty in Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, the Baltic states and Romania in more detail. While acknowledging the importance of the Vişegrad group as ‘nucleus’ in the process of European integration in central Europe, he concluded that the central and eastern European countries as a whole were still not used to cooperate with each other. The ties between these EU member states could be described as still weak. Especially when it comes to the Western Balkans he hoped for more joint initiative by central and eastern European countries. He concluded by saying that the involvement of decision makers and, more generally speaking, stakeholders from Central and Eastern Europe, in the management of European affairs, remained an open issue.

After the presentation a discussion ensued on coalition building in the EU in general and among the CEE in particular as well as on the current political situation in Hungary, seen from Romania as a neighbouring country.