

Joint Specialist Group Conference

The changing constellation of the enlarging EU

Organised by: the Greek Politics, German Politics, the Italian Politics and French Politics & Policy Specialist Groups of the PSA

Venue: School of Government and International Affairs
Durham University

Date: Friday, 23 January 2009

The recent waves of enlargement towards ten Central and Eastern European and two South-Eastern European countries have fundamentally altered the size and the nature of the European Union. The Single Market of 27 member states now represents the largest and most densely populated integrated economic area in the world and the EU has become one of the major international organisations with increasing levels of policy coordination amongst its member states. Further waves of enlargement towards the Balkan countries, Turkey and former Soviet Union states like the Ukraine would substantially increase the political and socio-economic diversity of the EU. The case of Turkey illustrates the lack of consensus amongst the present member states on the issue of further enlargement.

Existing studies of the EU continue to be largely focused on the national preferences and the power balance amongst the EU-15 countries with the new member states in Central and Eastern Europe being mainly considered under the aspect of integration into the existing EU *acquis*. The proposed conference will adopt a different perspective and concentrate on a more comprehensive analysis of the changing power balance within the EU-27. The CEE countries are hence considered as potential *policy-makers*, a role which they are gradually adopting. The conference will consequently examine in which way the new member states are influencing the EU policy agenda and how the EU-15 member states respond to this process.

PROGRAMME

9.00-9.30 Coffee and welcome

I) NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE EU-27

9.30-11.30 Panel 1: France

French conceptions of the European Social Model and the implications of enlargement

Dr Ben Clift, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Warwick

How to make friends and influence people: France in the EU27

Dr Helen Drake, Department of Politics, International Relations and European Studies, Loughborough University

History, cultural identity and difference: The issue of Turkey's accession to the European Union in the French national press

Dr Rabah Aissaouri, School of Modern Languages, University of Leicester

Rising ambivalence on market integration in the EU-27

Dr David Howarth, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Edinburgh

11.30-13.00 Panel 2: Greece and Italy

The Greek perspective on the impact of enlargement

Dr Stella Ladi, Public Policy Expert, Ministry of the Interior, Greece

Bulgaria's accession, industrial restructuring and Greek FDI

Dr Diana Bozhilova, London School of Economics Hellenic Observatory

The impact of EU membership/enlargement on decentralisation in Greece

Vasilis Leontitsis, Department of Politics, University of Sheffield

Italy and EU external relations: Between the Mediterranean and the South Caucasian

Dr Maurizio Carbone, Department of Politics, University of Glasgow

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Panel 3: Germany

14.00-15.00 Address by Wolfgang Mössinger, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Edinburgh

15.00-16.30 German perspectives in the EU-27

Immigration in an enlarging European Union: a German perspective

Dr Patricia Hogwood, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Westminster

The Logic of Unequal Interdependence: The Political Economy of German approaches to the enlargement of the EU

Dr Jeremy Leaman, Department of Politics, International Relations & European Studies, Loughborough University

The German model in the enlarged Single European market

Dr Christian Schweiger, School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University

16.00-18.00 Panel 4: The future enlargement of the EU: Issues and challenges

Turkey and the future of EU enlargement

Dr Dimitris Tsarouhas, Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey

Competing visions for European Security: With or without Turkey?

Murat Yesiltas, Department of European Languages and Cultures, Lancaster University / Marmara and Sakarya University, Turkey

The impact of enlargement on the EU social model

Paul Copeland, Department of Politics, School of Social Sciences, University of Manchester