

European Democrat Students Newsletter



SEPTEMBER / 2011

Holiday is over, School's in!



Dear friends,

the working year is only really starting now, as September marks the end of holidays. We will also start with great momentum when the first Council meeting of the new working year takes place in Prague from September 13-18. EDS will then take part in the first political meetings of this season in Brussels at the Political Assembly of EPP. You can read below a report of the Bureau from the 2nd Bureau meeting in Jurbise, Belgium. September will end with the annual summer university of the European Ideas Network, this time held in Bucharest, Romania. I wish you a pleasant September, not too much stressful start to work and may the sun that recharged your batteries over the summer keep you positive through the whole autumn.

Juraj Antal
EDS Chairman

Knowledge is power!

New EDS campaign for the following year has been launched. Promotion and development of knowledge-based society spreads the message to wake up and grow up. This campaign overlaps with streamlining of future events, which will take place in Prague, Marseille, Rijeka and Antwerp/Brussels. Freshly formed internal group of Chairman, one Vice-Chairman, Policy Director, Research Officer and PWG Co-Chairs will be the driving force of the campaign.

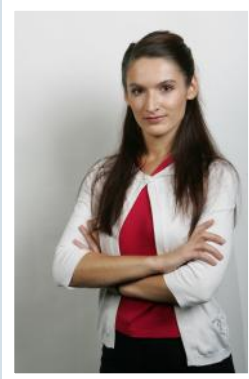
Meet newly appointed EDS Deputy Secretary General



The Bureau has chosen the new Deputy Secretary General. Ms. Dace Spēlmane, 23, will start working in the position from 1st September onwards. She will assume the control of the EDS office in Rue du Commerce 10, Brussels, and provide support for the entire Bureau, as well as work as the "right hand" of the Secretary General.

Dace has not been active in EDS before, but she used to be active in NEYS Latvia for many years. The Bureau was highly convinced of her prior professional experience in similar duties in other NGOs in Brussels, as well as her professional attitude in the selection process. Dace herself is excited about EDS and is ready to face the challenges involved, and to meet everybody in Prague.

New leadership team of our Latvian full member



Shortly after Midsummer holidays, on June 27th, Latvian Conservative Youth Union (Latvia) members gathered for its Annual meeting where as Chair-Woman was elected Ms. Agija Nika, former Secretary General. Her position now will be overtaken by Ms. Irita Sinuka. The New International Secretary is Zane Spalviņa, who already was involved in international affairs as an organiser of EDS Policy days in Riga. Ms. Marina Vese will serve as a Deputy Chair-Woman and Mr. Rinalds Gulbis will continue the work as a senior member of the board. EDS sincerely congratulates the new Chair-Woman and her and says many thanks to her predecessor Mrs. Ieva Dzelme Romanovska for an excellent cooperation EDS and LCY have had within these years.

Upcoming events

- September 15-18 – Seminar "Twenty Years of Democracy and Sustainable Development in Central and Eastern Europe" and 1st Council Meeting of 2011/2012 in Prague, Czech Republic – **Registration closed!**
- 6. – 10. December – Seminar "Multiculturalism in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities" and 2nd Council Meeting of 2011/2012 in Marseille, France – **Please notice change of dates.** More details available soon.

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New EDS Twitter Account



Follow EDS and Chairman Juraj Antal on Twitter.
[@EurDemStu](https://twitter.com/EurDemStu)

Bureau meets in Jurbise

The new Bureau kicked off the new working year by having a planning meeting in Jurbise, on the Belgian countryside, on August 11-14. The weekend was full of informal, but highly productive workshops, where the Bureau and the co-chairmen of the Permanent Working Groups planned the upcoming year both separately and together. During the weekend common practices were devised, experiences shared and open brainstorming engaged about the themes and focal points of the working year 2011/12. The event and the premises, kindly hosted by EDH Belgium also helped to increase team spirit and sense of common goals among the participants. The new Bureau and the new co-chairmen are anxious to start working already before the next meeting in Prague. The Bureau also nominated as the new EDS Higher Education Research officer Mr. Stephen Ørmen Johnsen from HSF Norway. The Research Officer's role will be crucial in ensuring the substance and factual content of the work that will be done in the field of Higher Education. He will co-operate closely with the PWG Higher Education & Research, but also assist other groups when needed.



PWGs started their work

Vice Chairmen Alexandros Politis and Kalin Zahariev, Policy Director Gintarė Narkevičiūtė, and the Co-Chairmen of the Permanent Working Groups are already planning a new strategy for refreshing the workflow of the PWGs. Associated activities will highlight the professionalism of the working groups and will be further used to improve the quality of the political input/output process. Goals for organisational improvement of PWGs have been set, including optimizing cooperation between PWGs and forming a common motions structure. The changes will be presented and discussed in the second Council Meeting in Marseille.

AG has a new bureau

We are pleased to announce that EDS member organisation Aktionsgemeinschaft had elections the last weekend and that they have a very competent new bureau led by Martin Brenner as Chairman. Anna-Maria Kriebbaum remains Secretary General and Bernhard Krall remains International Secretary. EDS would like to congratulate the new bureau and wish them excellent working year.