



European Perspective 2010



Dear friends of EDS,
as we are approaching the end of yet another year, it is appropriate to reflect a little upon the last year before leaving it behind and looking into the future opportunities of the year to come. 2009 has been a strength test for Europe. The financial crisis has raged across our continent, and left millions of Europeans jobless, destroyed industries and led to increased national deficits all across our continent. In addition the H1N1 pandemic threatens to paralyse large portions of our workforce, thus decreasing production and profitability. However Europe has not been affected as strongly as many others. Because we stand together in a united Europe, we have been able to avoid the worst consequences of the financial crisis. In the future Europe will be even more resistant to states of crisis. The Lisbon treaty will provide the EU with modern institutions and optimised working methods to tackle both efficiently and effectively today's challenges in today's world. This month the leaders of the world will meet in Copenhagen to lay the foundation for a binding treaty on how to tackle the greatest challenge of our time; climate change. A treaty is good, however words must be put into action, and there is no better basis for this than a united Europe. In order to cut emissions, we must use the market as our primary tool to achieve our goals. Through tax-cuts on eco-friendly choices and products, we can make choosing eco-friendly solutions cost-efficient. This primary incentive for European climate policy should be stimulating our inhabitants to make choices which will lower our emissions, and make us less dependent on imported fossil fuel.

2010 will be an important year in history, our choices and actions will be decisive for the future of Europe.

Bence Bauer
Chairman of EDS

HSF-Norway bureau member enters ESU

Christian Bjerke who is currently serving as a member in the executive bureau of HSF was nearly unanimously elected as a member of ESUs Academic Affairs Committee. Christian has broad experience in the field of higher education and research policy after being an active in student politics at the University of Bergen, and as a longstanding HSF member. The EDS bureau is happy that likeminded individuals are exerting influence also in ESU.

Alumni Dinner in Brussels

As a part of EDS' strategy to reconnect with its alumni, the Bureau is pleased to announce that it will host a dinner in honour of our former activists during the Winter University in Brussels. All alumni are welcome to attend this event to get to know the current activists, and to share impressions and reflections on almost 40 years of EDS. More information will come shortly especially designated former EDS activists.

EDS Bureau Meets in Paris!



The 2nd EDS Bureau meeting took place from 6th to 8th November in Paris and was kindly hosted by Vice-Chairman of EDS Mr. Jean-Baptiste Dabezies and our French members UNI.

The first topic was practical implementation of EDS campaign on the anniversary of the Fall of Berlin Wall "20 years after". Besides EDS bureau topics 'as usual': work of Secretariat, preparation for the upcoming events, documentary and fundraising we discussed the results of the evaluation from last Council meeting and possible improvements. Also a long but productive debate on the cooperation with like-minded organisations took place.

Before and after EDS bureau work we had the possibility to attend some sessions of the UNI Congress where the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of Berlin Wall was also presented. The delighted speakers told about the lessons we have learned fighting the communism and the walls we still have today – in education, politics, in Europe and in our minds.

Also Chairman of EDS, Mr. Bence Bauer who addressed the audience of UNI in French reminded how different the life was beyond the iron curtain and underlined that there are still many things to be done by the generation of current students to maintain and strengthen the democracy, freedom and human rights all over the Europe. Mr. Bauer stressed that communism and totalitarian regime is not an abstract evil from history books, almost every family who lived in former Soviet Union or its satellite countries had similar stories about the violation of very basic human rights, broken lives, lost possibilities and hopes.

The Bureau Meeting was a very inspiring event, and we wish to thank our French friends for hosting us.

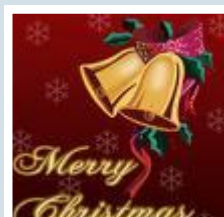
Jenny Nyman re-elected as TK Chairman



The annual meeting of TK Finland took place in the city of Jyväskylä from 28th to 29th November 2009. The meeting re-elected Jenny Nyman as chairman for another two years. In the final election Jenny beat her challenger Juuso Rönholm with a clear 2/3 majority of votes. Jenny is 26 years old and she studies theology in University of Joensuu although she currently resides in Helsinki. She has been the chairman of TK since January 2008. The meeting also elected two new vice-chairmen, equally for a two-year tenure. Of the three candidates elected were Helen Fils, aged 25, from Vantaa who studies genetics in University of Helsinki and Mikko Vieltojärvi, aged 25, from Oulu who studies business administration in Oulu University of Applied Sciences.

Something about Christmastime...

At this troubled times, with our values being put up for re-evaluation, nothing can serve as a better beacon than that shining light of Christmas spirit. So remember to spend your upcoming holidays with people who matter the most: your family, friends and relatives; sharing with them the best possible Christmas one can give – your undying and unconditional love. EDS Bureau wishes you a very merry Christmas filled with love, hope and joy!



Upcoming events

- **EDS Council Meeting in Jerusalem** will take place December 2-6. EDS can accept one delegate per organisation, and there will be a participation fee of 50,- EUR. Please register with the secretariat no later than November 6.
- **EPP Congress Bonn** will take place December 8-10. EDS members are invited to accompany the bureau. The Congress will be voting upon the new presidency of our mother party. Please register with the secretariat no later than November 6.

European Youth Congress 2009 – RCDS invites students and pupils to discuss about Europe

From November 11th to 13th, RCDS Germany organized its first European Youth Congress near Cologne in cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the European Commission's programme „Youth in Action“. During two days, the future generation of EDS was able to attend interesting workshops as well as a roleplay in order to discuss European questions and challenges, with a focus on European development policy.

The more than 40 participants got great input from several outspoken experts and could start networking. Of course, the convivial aspect was not neglected: The organizers proposed an activating evening programme with games, quizzes related to Europe and performances. A big thank you goes to EDS Vicechairman Jean-Baptiste Dabezies who closed the Congress by a stimulating speech about Franco-German cooperation and the consequences of the fall of the Berlin wall.

Europe 20-years after campaign

20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall EDS commemorates the anniversary of freedom in Europe. Our campaign "20 years after – generation 1989 speaks out" where the generation of today is heard and asked about the impact of 1989 and the transition. We will compare these statements of young people from all over Europe with the statements of political actors of today who were students themselves in 1989. The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

It is the goal of EDS to highlight the meaning of 1989 for the people and to remind European public about the outcome of the peaceful revolution 20 years ago. This revolution was not only due to brave statesman, but mostly due to the courageousness of the people, of civil society and groups of brave citizens. Without them, no peaceful change could have been possible.

BullsEye hits the streets!



The Bureau is happy to announce that the first BullsEye of the working year has been printed, and will be distributed continuously until the next edition. The current edition covers themes such as Europe 20 years after, Croatia's road to Europe and Lisbon. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as the editorial team enjoyed writing it. If you want to engage in intellectual and stimulating writing activities, contributors are still welcome for the next edition.

Busy Chairman

November has been a busy month for EDS Chairman, Bence Bauer. Bauer has attended Annual Meeting Fidesz Youth Hungary, in Budapest: Oct. 17- International Students Meeting in Komarno (Slovakia) on Oct. 31, here Chairman took part on a panel about student policies in Central Europe, together with Katarina Takacova, Vice-Chairwoman ODM Slovakia Bureau Meeting in Paris and XXVI. UNI Convergence Nov. 6-8, here Chairman presided the bureau meeting and addressed the audience of 250 UNI activists with a speech about the reunification of Europe, Study Trip in Moldova, Nov. 15-19, here Chairman delivered two speeches in front of respectively 100 youngsters, organised in the framework of a mobilising conference NG PPCD Moldova. Mr. Chairman also participated EDS alumni meeting in Brussels Nov. 25 with former EDS officers, IYDU Council Meeting in Berlin, Nov. 25-29 and Hanns Seidel Stiftung EU-Russia Forum on November 30th.

TK Finland: TK still biggest political group in Student Councils

TK managed to hold firmly on its position as the biggest political group in Finnish Student Council elections. Elections were organised simultaneously from 3rd to 4th of November in 12 universities across the country. Seven universities that are under a merging process had their elections already in April. In the elections a combined total of 366 councillors were elected for a two-year tenure. Of these seats TK got 43 with a 7,7 % result making it still the biggest political group. Green party students got a result of 7,4 %, Left Union students got 6,8 % and Centre Party students got 4,4 %. Politically non-committed groups increased their support to 65,3 %. Of a total of 93 000 students with a voting right, some 28,4 % used their vote which marks the highest global activity since 1993 elections.

TK gained additional seats in University of Tampere and in University of Vaasa. TK held to its 2007 result in University of Jyväskylä and in University of Lapland. In other universities few seats were lost to non-committed groups. Other political groups suffered similar losses to non-committed groups, a development that has been going on since late 1990s.

"Throughout its history the Student movement has been an important political actor in Finland. The increasing power of non-political groups in Student Councils is inevitably leading to a lack of purposeful direction inside the student movement. TK shall continue its important work to keep the image of Student Councils as a believable political actor that provides purposeful input all over the Country." says Jenny Nyman, chairman of TK.