



## FESTIVITIES AND TOUGH DECISIONS

Dear friends,

The month of November will bring many exciting events for EDS. Along with geese festivals and tasting new wine all over Europe, it's a period of preparations for the Marseille council meeting and EPP Congress.

Many organisations will celebrate their anniversaries this upcoming month or the month of December, especially from the former Eastern block. The European Youth Forum will hold its General Assembly in Braga, Portugal. Where EDS will also try to stake itself in the European Youth arena stronger. The trip to Portugal is also nice chance for EDS to find out about Portuguese members and future cooperation. Tuhatkunta, one of our oldest member organisations holds its congress this month in Vaasa, Finland. I will be delivering a speech there, hopefully not all in Finnish.

We are developing our campaign on "Knowledge is Power" so that we hope to have reports for you in the December newsletter. In this NL you will have a chance to read about EDS' first appearance at the Forum 2000 in Prague, IRL Youth seminar in Tallinn and newly elected president of Bulgaria.

I wish you a great autumn/winter like November take only the positive side of the weather and mood in you and we will see you in the last month of this year with a fresh issue of our newsletter.

**Juraj ANTAL**  
Chairman, European Democrat Students

## BUSY EDS CHAIRMAN

EDS Chairman Juraj Antal attended two events in October. He was present in the Advisory Council on Youth of the European Youth Forum in Budapest. It is very important that EDS was there as it represents the biggest youth and student association in Europe.

Chairman was also in Belgrade in the EPP Political Campaign Managers meeting where he was hosted by G17+, the coalition party of the Serbian government. Knowledge and experiences gained there will be very helpful in the upcoming EDS campaign Knowledge is power. EDS would like to thank EPP, Christian Kremer as VP and G17+ for their hospitality in Belgrade.

## EDS VISITS IRLY SEMINAR IN ESTONIA

EDS visited the seminar "Europe Remembers: The price of freedom and democracy as seen from the historic point of view", which took place in Tallinn and Tartu, Estonia between October 28-30. The seminar was organised by IRL Youth, a member of EDS, and was a second part in a series of seminars with the same title.

Topics addressed during the seminar were efforts of the European Union in promoting freedom in developing democracies, events which led to the end of the first Estonian Republic due to succeeding occupations by the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, resulting in eventual inclusion to the Soviet Union, Students' role in the resistance movement during the occupations. The modern topics addressed were development of the Economy of the modern Estonian republic between 1991 and today, the democratisation process of the post-soviet Georgia and challenges of the future of Europe.

The speakers of the seminar included an MP, an MEP, a former minister; and senior government officials. EDS was represented in the seminar by Secretary General Samuli Kauranne.

[Read more at edsnet.eu](http://Read more at edsnet.eu)



## GERB CANDIDATE ELECTED PRESIDENT

October was a busy month for the youth of GERB (MGERB), a member organisation of EDS, due to ongoing presidential and local elections. The presidential campaign was launched three months ago with a nation-wide initiative in support of joining to Schengen.

As a result of hard campaigning, Rosen PLEVNELIEV, the candidate of GERB, gained 54 percent of the votes in the election winning the presidency, while the competing socialist candidate was left behind at 46 percent.

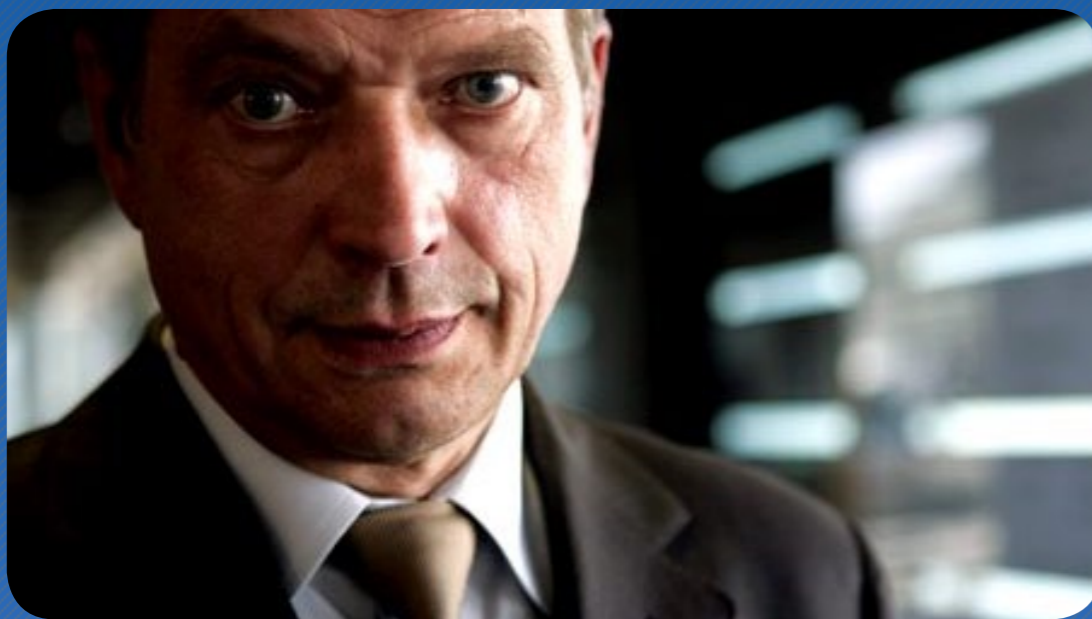


## EDS AT FORUM2000

EDS took part at Forum2000, held from the 9th to the 11th of October in Prague, Czech Republic. The main topic of this year's forum was "Democracy and the Rule of Law".

The forum was opened by Former President of the Czech Republic, Václav HAVEL, and a video greeting from Aung San SUU KYI. Other prominent speakers were the President of Republic of Georgia, Mikheil SAAKASHVILI, and Atifete JAHJAGA the President of Kosovo.

Democracy and the rule of law in Asia and Russia were discussed in several panels. Other issues that were debated at the forum were organized crime and corruption, greening the economy, law and environment and women leaders in tomorrows world. EDS was represented in the seminar by Chairman Juraj Antal and co-chairwoman of the Human Rights permanent working group, Charlotte Spurkeland.



## EPP HONORARY CHAIRMAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN FINLAND

Sauli NIINISTÖ, Honorary Chairman of EPP, former deputy Prime Minister of Finland, was appointed as the presidential candidate of National Coalition Party "Kokoomus" in an extraordinary Congress in Helsinki on 26 October.

Mr Niinistö currently dominates the polls with a global support of over 50 %, leaving all competitors sovereignly behind. EDS attended the Congress and wishes Mr Niinistö best luck in the January elections. Finland hasn't had a conservative president since 1950s.



## NEXT EDS EVENTS

### DECEMBER 7 - 11, 2011

"Multiculturalism in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities"

Seminar and Council Meeting in Marseille, France

Registration open online until November 7 at [edsnet.eu](http://edsnet.eu).

### FEBRUARY 21 - 26, 2012

"Democratisation Process in the Balkans: Promoting European values and Human Rights."

XXII. Winter University in Zagreb, Croatia

More information available soon online at [edsnet.eu](http://edsnet.eu).

