



APRIL/2010

## Happy Easter!



Dear Friends of EDS,  
Spring is on its way, and winter has finally left most of Europe. But springtime is also election time, and many of our members will yet again dedicate a lot of their time, in order to help their parties win the elections and steer Europe the right way. I wish all our activists great success in their upcoming elections.

I would also like to use this opportunity to wish all our members, affiliates, supporters and partners a happy Easter. I wish you all the best, and encourage everybody to spend some calm time with their friends and families during the Easter weekend.

Best Regards,

Bence Bauer  
Chairman of EDS

## EDS Delegation at the Bologna Ministerial Conference

The EDS delegation headed by EDS Chairman Bence Bauer took part at the 2010 Bologna Ministerial Conference. At the end of the period set up for the creation of the European Higher Education Area, European Democrat Students were present in Budapest and Vienna where 47 countries gathered in order to look forward the next decade.



The summit provided the opportunity for personal talks with many heads of delegations whereas EDS could get in direct touch with Higher Education ministers. The differences of national HE structures does not affect the will of fulfilling the Bologna action lines.

Read more on our website:

[www.edsnet.eu/news](http://www.edsnet.eu/news)

## EDS at CDS cantus in Gent

It has been a few calm weeks after the WU and when EDS has received the invitation to attend a typical Flemish student tradition called a cantus.

Organised by Gent branches of CDS and JONG CD&V, on March 19, it was an informal come together of students and alumni while they sing student songs and drink beer together. Attended by EDS chairman Bence Bauer and Secretary General Maria Keris, along with a few edH members, the cantus took a rather international path, with songs sang in English, French, Estonian and Hungarian. No doubt that a few famous EDS songs will appear in the CDS songbook for the next year.

It's been a great time together with young Belgians, drinking 'some' beers and singing songs. EDS will be looking forward to attending more traditions like this.

## Nordic Conservative Students Union Council meeting- Spring Seminar in Riga!



The Spring Council meeting-seminar of the regional EDS partner-Nordic Conservative Student Union (NKSU)- was hosted by Latvian Conservative Youth Union (LKJA-Latvijas Konservatīvā Jaunatnes Apvienība) and took place on March 26-28, in Riga. Together with participants from NKSU member organisation also EDS was represented in this event by its Chairman Bence Bauer and Vice-Chairman Jean-Baptiste Dabiezies.

The purpose of the seminar "Education- a cornerstone for Baltic's revival? The experience of Nordic region" was to discuss the main challenges of the Nordic-Baltic integration and possibilities to share the most valuable experience within the context of the current economic situation and provisional reforms. Key speakers were Mr. Arturs Krisjanis Karins, Head of Latvian delegation to the European Parliament (EPP group), Mr. Andreas Michael Klein Resident Representative of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in the Baltic States and Mr. Bence Bauer, Chairman of European Democrat Students. Bence Bauer expressed his opinion that NKSU could serve as an excellent example of regional Youth cooperation and shortly described the recent and upcoming activities of EDS.

The whole event was concluded by NKSU Council meeting, in the course of which Nordic and Baltic representatives agreed to continue cooperation within EDS.

## New PwG Co-Chair appointed!

Lotta Merisaari from TK Finland was appointed as new co-chair of the permanent working group of human rights.

Lotta studies theology at University of Helsinki and has been member of the TK national board since 2009. In 2008 she was the chairman of TK's Helsinki branch. She has also been an assistant to former Finnish MEP Eva-Riitta Siitonen until 2009 EU elections. In addition she was appointed International Secretary fo TK in January 2010.



The bureau looks forward to working with Lotta and the rest of the working group.

## Busy EDS Chairman

March was the big campaign month for Fidesz where also EDS Chairman took an active role.

Additionally, Chairman participated in the listed activities: He took part at the EPP Group meeting March 4-5 (Budapest), in the EURASHE Higher Education Conference March 9-10 (Budapest), fundraised at International Visegrad Fund March 10 (Bratislava) and participated at the Bologna Ministerial Anniversary Summit March 11-12 (Budapest/Vienna).

March 13-14, he addressed SOHSS Assembly in Rijeka, March 15 he attended Fidesz Campaign Speech of Viktor Orbán at Budapest Castle, March 17 he informally met with speakers and participants of the seminar of Robert Schuman Institute in Budapest and March 19, he was in Brussels to attend EPP Working Group 1 (General Policy) chaired by EPP President Martens, where EDS positions could be brought in. March 19, Chairman was in Ghent with CDS Belgium and EDH Belgium for the CDS Cantus.

Between March 23-24, Bence Bauer was in Kosovo to attend the 20th anniversary of LDK and its Youth Forum. On March 26-27, the Annual Meeting of Mladí konzervativci Czech Republic was addressed in Prague and on March 27-28, the Council Meeting of NKSU in Riga. March 29, he attended the Youth Prize Ceremony of a Civic Hungary (Budapest), March 30 the 22nd anniversary of Fidesz (Budapest).

Furthermore, two skype meetings could be held in March and all the speakers and sponsors of the WinterU could be thanked in formal letters.

## EDS launches itself into the EPP WGs!

March has been intense with attending the EPP working groups. The newly set structure, with six working groups launched, is aimed to involve more EPP members into the policy making process with a wider set of issues discussed.

EDS as student and youth voice registered interested members to regularly attend all of the working groups. Our contribution is both essential in terms of input and output strategies and delivering our ideas within the EPP family.

On March 18, Maria Keris attended the EPP working group 4 - 'Common Agricultural Policy' and WG 3 - 'EPP Membership'. The next day was dedicated to WG on European Policies, attended by Bence Bauer.

The meeting of WG 2 'Economic and Social Policy' is scheduled for 12th of April, with the working groups 5 on climate change and WG 6 on Eastern Partnership & Mediterranean Union are still to be scheduled.

## Hungarian Electoral Campaign Reaches Finish Line!



Budapest - Since end of January the electoral campaign in Hungary started. EPP full member Fidesz Hungarian Civic Union and its Chairman, candidate for Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, have a public support of 60% in the newest polls. Fidesz will be very likely form the new government after the elections on April 11 and April 25.

EDS full member Fidesz Youth as the youth organisation supported its mother party in each stage of the campaign and involved a lot of young people. Now, the campaign is coming to its end.

Fidesz and Fidesz Youth invite young people from Europe to take part in the final campaign event on April 8 (Thursday) starting at 14.00 h.

For taking part in that event, please notify International Secretary of Fidesz Youth until April 2, 17.00 h.

## SOHSS Croatia appoints new international secretary!

Nevenka Cigrovski was appointed as SOHSS' new international secretary on March 13th 2010.

Chairman of EDS Bence Bauer attended the meeting and congratulated Nevenka on behalf of EDS.

## Young Likud accepted as Affiliate members of EDS!

During the 3rd council meeting of the working year, it was an honor for EDS to accept Young Likud from Israel as an affiliate member of EDS. Young Likud have been active participants of EDS events for many years, and have developen close ties with many EDS activists. The Bureau is happy to welcome Young Likud to the EDS family.

## EDS Winter University Gets Good Grades!

The evaluation of the Winter University gave positive results. The participants were in fact very happy with the event and on average gave high marks to the event as a whole.

The bureau is happy to see that the participants were pleased with the event, and that the work preceding the event gave added value by pleasing our members.

The evaluations also included some mild critique, which the bureau will use in order to improve in the future.

## Upcoming events

- **05 - 09 May 4th Council Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania** – More information will be available in the upcoming month on EDS website [www.edsnet.eu](http://www.edsnet.eu)