

EUROPEAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

Yale University, February 5–6, 2016

Conference Report



Erasmus+



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Executive Directors' Message
6	Behind the Conference: European Horizons
8	On the Road: Fall Policy Convention 2015
9	Capping Off: European Student Conference 2016
11	List of Universities
12	Speakers and Policy Advisers at ESC
13	Featured Professors
14	Workshops
15	Economy and Innovation
16	Democracy and Institutions Workshop
17	Immigration and Integration Workshop
18	European Identity Workshop
19	Transatlantic Relations Workshop
20	Entrepreneurship Workshop
21	Plenaries
22	After ESC: European Security Spring Forum
24	Thank You
25	The European Horizons Team
27	Our Sponsors and Partners



Executive Directors' Message

The European Union is a historically unprecedented supranational integration project. It brought together millions of people after decades of conflict and continues to influence lives on the continent. However, the past decade has seen the European Union experience two major crises that have not only tested its unity but also threatened its very survival. Many today are quick to predict that the migration crisis that has heaped its burden on top of the economic crisis will force the European Union to disintegrate. Europe is in real danger of losing the hearts and minds of its peoples.

In this somber context fraught with many challenges and uncertainty, the European Student Conference 2016 organized by European Horizons on February 5th and 6th 2016 at the Yale School Management emerged as a fertile forum for debate and problem-solving on the challenges that plague the European Union. Building on its success from 2015, the European Student Conference applied its concept of bringing together innovative young minds passionate about Europe with seasoned European decision-makers and academics. Revolving around the central theme of “Envisioning a Confident Europe,” the Conference invited its attendants to think of the European ideal not just as an abstract concept but more deeply as an actionable ambition.

The Conference Workshops yielded a series of creative ideas. The Economy and Innovation Workshop proposed strategies for fostering innovation clusters around European universities and for expanding the digital capacity of small and medium enterprises. The Immigration and Integration Workshop developed a plan for a supranational EU body responsible for border control and immigration with humanitarian and security objectives. The Democracy and Institutions Workshop described a framework for building an accountable Eurozone Treasury that would serve as a fiscal transfer mechanism. The Transatlantic Relations Workshop crafted a security and defense strategy that would expand Europol's intelligence capabilities and invest in expanding the military capabilities of European states. The European Identity Workshop propounded a vision for European identity that recognizes Europe's



Christian heritage, tradition of religious tolerance, and acknowledges the need for inter-religious dialogue and support to communities facing radicalism.

The Entrepreneurship Workshop was a novel addition to our Conference concept, one that reflects our desire to spawn change in Europe through social entrepreneurship. The winning team with their business idea e-Ubelong will work on building a digital platform that will link immigrants in European countries to employers. Their project elegantly combines policy considerations with business thinking on the ground.

As we look at the output of the European Student Conference 2016, we feel proud and inspired. The participants with their ideas will make valuable additions to the network that European Horizons has cultivated since its launching in February 2015. To date, many set-up chapters at their local American and European universities and became engaged in policy debates through our various activities. By attracting such bright minds and discussing controversial issues, European Horizons hopes to help build a better Europe, and a more confident Union.

Sincerely,

Nasos Abuel and Olga Karnas

Executive Directors of European Horizons, 2015–2016



BEHIND THE CONFERENCE: EUROPEAN HORIZONS



European Horizons was founded on February 14th, 2015 at the inaugural European Student Conference 2015 at Yale University by undergraduate and graduate students from 45 US universities as well as from College d’Europe.

The idea of the think tank sprung from a group of European students at Yale who wanted to contribute to the future of the European ideal and the state of transatlantic relations. Studying and living in the United States, these students aspired to use their perspective from both sides of the Atlantic to build a think tank that could unite young minds in order to articulate and advance a credible plan for the future of the European Union.

After a period of preparation, we conceived the name “European Horizons” as an evocative symbol of the think tank’s focus on the potential of the European project. The inaugural European Student Conference provided a welcome opportunity to share the idea for the think tank with students, professors, policymakers as well as decision-makers from the business world and civil society. The overwhelming support and insightful feedback that emanated from the Conference provided the final motivation to build European Horizons.



In our “Declaration of Principles”, we decided to focus on four key areas relevant to the future of the European Union: European identity, the social market economy, European integration, and transatlantic relations. We believe that these areas capture the bulk of the challenges that the European Union must comprehensively address in order to develop into a more confident and prosperous Union.

European Horizons was created as a think tank open to all individuals with a significant interest in the future of the European Union, including non-Europeans, and particularly Americans. We value this inclusiveness and we remain convinced that it contributes to raising awareness about the values, vision, and actions of the European Union in countries beyond Europe.

European Horizons convenes its annual European Student Conference at Yale as well as the Fall Policy Convention, the Spring Forum and the Youth Summit, publishes research and policy papers through its academic journal, *The Review of European and Transatlantic Affairs*, and maintains chapters across universities in the United States and Europe.

For more information about European Horizons, please visit www.europeanhorizons.org.



On the Road: Fall Policy Convention 2015



The Fall Policy Convention 2015 yielded more than just the Declaration of Principles of European Horizons. Providing young ambitious Europhiles with an opportunity to exchange ideas, it fostered a constructive dialogue on the future of the European ideal. Beyond the intellectual discussions, the Fall Policy Convention also provided an opportunity to strengthen personal connections, setting the foundation for enduring friendships that we believe will stand the test of time.



Capping Off: European Student Conference 2016



From February 5th to February 6th, 2016, one hundred undergraduate and graduate students from universities all across the US and Europe gathered at the Yale School of Management to address some of the major challenges confronting the European Union at the European Student Conference 2016 (ESC 2016). The Conference aims to:

- Craft policy papers that tackle European challenges relevant to economic growth, immigration, institutions, identity, and security.
- Engage in debates with distinguished professors, current and former policymakers, and representatives of the European Commission.
- Generate ideas for the future of the European ideal that we can develop back at our home universities, professions, or as members of European Horizons.



- To introduce participants to European Horizons, a think-tank with chapters at 20+ American and European universities that is dedicated to exploring the meaning of European identity, modernizing and reforming the concept of the social market economy, pursuing European integration, and deepening transatlantic relations.
- European Horizons is proud to feature **Renée Haferkamp** as the Special Adviser of ESC 2016.

PARTICIPANTS

Our hundred participants represented fifty-six universities from all over the United States of America and Europe, and attended college, law school, graduate school and business school. They shared a desire to shape the future of the European Union and transatlantic relations, and to enter into a thought-provoking dialogue with professors and policymakers.



List of Universities

Amherst College
Autonomous University of Barcelona
Brigham Young University
Brown University
Central European University
Christopher Newport University
College d'Europe
Columbia University
Cornell University
Davidson College
Florida International University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Johns Hopkins
New York University
Penn State
Princeton University
Seton Hall University
South Dakota State University
Stanford University
Texas A&M
University of Texas at Austin
The College of William & Mary
The London School of Economics
and Political Science
Tufts University
University of Texas at Austin
The College of William & Mary
The London School of Economics
and Political Science
Tufts University
Tulane University
UC Irvine
UNC Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of California, Berkeley
University of Chicago
University of Denver
University of Iowa
University of Michigan
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign
University of Minnesota Law School
University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
University of Notre Dame
University of Oxford
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin
University of Wyoming
UW-Madison
Wake Forest University
Wellesley College
Yale University



Speakers and Policy Advisers at ESC

KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA

Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Budget and Human Resources

DAVID O'SULLIVAN

Ambassador of the European Union to the United States

JOAO VALE DE ALMEIDA

European Union Ambassador to the United Nations

PIERRE VIMONT

Former Executive Secretary-General of the European External Action Service and former French Ambassador to the USA

KLAUS WELLE

Secretary General of the European Parliament

ERHARD BUSEK

Former Vice-Chancellor of Austria

EILEEN O'CONNOR

Vice President for Communications, Yale University

GEORG FISCHER

Director in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission

SIDONIA JEŁDRZEJSKA

Head of Budgetary Affairs in the European Parliamentary Research Service

PAOLO ZANNONI

Former Chief Executive Officer of Goldman Sachs Russia

VITO BORRELLI

Head of Sector for the Jean Monnet Actions under Erasmus+

RENÉE HAFERKAMP

Representative of the European Parliament and Special Adviser of the European Student Conference 2016



Featured Professors

DAVID CAMERON

Professor of Political Science
and Director of EU Studies at
Yale University

DAVID BACH

Senior Associate Dean for Executive
MBA and Global Programs at Yale
School of Management

VIVIEN SCHMIDT

Jean Monnet Professor of European
Integration and Director of the
Center for the Study of Europe at
Boston University

CHRISTINE LANDFRIED

Max Weber Chair in German
and European Studies at
New York University

JOSE MANUEL MARTINEZ SIERRA

Jean Monnet ad persona Professor
of European Union Law and
Government, Faculty Affiliated of
the Minda de Gunzburg Center
for European Studies at Harvard
and Faculty Associate of the
David Rockefeller Center for Latin
American Studies

MAI'A CROSS

Assistant Professor of Political
Science and International Affairs
at Northeastern University

MICHELE CHANG

Professor of European Political
and Administrative Studies at
College d'Europe



WORKSHOPS



ESC 2016 revolved around six Workshops, each of them dealing with a specific theme relevant to the future of the European Union: Economy and Innovation, Democracy and Institutions, Immigration and Integration, European Identity, Transatlantic Relations, and Entrepreneurship. Each conference participant attended one Workshop throughout the conference. In the Workshops, students presented policy-papers that expounded on their understanding and vision for their respective Workshop theme. Professors and policy advisers within their Workshops gave feedback that was used to refine and deepen their policy-papers. Ultimately, students generated a series of finalized policy-papers that analyzed the dimensions of their Workshop themes, proposed policy prescriptions for the European Union to adopt, and outlined ways in which the student participants themselves can implement their ideas to further the European ideal.



Economy and Innovation

THEME

Pursuing growth and innovation through small and medium enterprises

- Education
- Access to capital/innovative finance
- Innovation clusters
- Environmental sustainability

DESCRIPTION

The Economy Workshop focused on four crucial areas of analysis that considered the full life cycle of enterprise development for SMEs. Overarching is the need to modernize the educational system and provide adequate resources for entrepreneurs to begin and grow their ventures in a sustainable manner. A major challenge to the growth of SMEs is the lack of financing alternatives, largely due to the limited availability of private capital. Beyond funding, innovation must be encouraged through greater collaboration between business and academia. Lastly, growth from SMEs must support the EU's commitment towards low-carbon economic development, through the use of cleaner technologies that will achieve efficiency gains and protect the environment.

POLICY ADVISER

Georg Fischer

PROFESSOR

Michele Chang

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Iliana Lazarova



Democracy and Institutions Workshop

THEME

Establishing a Eurozone Treasury

- The role and competences of a Eurozone Treasury
- Ensuring the accountability of a Eurozone Treasury
- A budget for the Eurozone Treasury
- The policy tools of a Eurozone Treasury

DESCRIPTION

In the shadow of a lengthy and complex crisis for the Eurozone member states, concerns over the government of the currency union have become increasingly more urgent. Many suggestions for reform have proposed the creation of a Eurozone Treasury as a new institutional mechanism of fiscal control and oversight. The potential competences, purpose, and accountability of such an institution are, however, still much contested. The Democracy and Institutions Workshop assessed the options available for a Eurozone Treasury across these areas, and suggested the most viable policy proposals for its establishment and management.

POLICY ADVISER

Sidonia Jedrzejewska

PROFESSORS

Vivien Schmidt and Jose Martinez Sierra

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Chloe Colliver



Immigration and Integration Workshop

THEME

Formulating an integrated European immigration and asylum policy

- Politics and Law
- Security and Immigration
- Economic Integration
- Common Framework for Cultural and Social Integration

DESCRIPTION

The Immigration and Integration Workshop focused on four main issues: the legal framework and political ramifications of EU-level policies impacting refugees and asylum seekers within the EU; the potential security threats involved in admitting refugees and asylum seekers; strategies for integrating admitted refugees into the workforce through policies for permanent residence, language programs or cultural acceptance; and the possibility of developing measures that will facilitate the cultural and social assimilation of refugees and asylum seekers in their host countries.

POLICY ADVISER

Pierre Vimont

PROFESSOR

David Cameron

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Izabela Kolodziej



European Identity Workshop

THEME

Considering religion and secularism

- Toleration & the Refugee Crisis
- Integration & the Refugee Crisis
- Unity in Diversity
- European Secularization

DESCRIPTION

Europe's landscape vis-à-vis its cultural and religious others is drastically changing. Resurgent old and new nationalisms, serious infringements on democratic institutions in Poland and Hungary, the re-instating of border controls on Schengen territory after the arrival of thousands of refugees, and incomplete deals with Turkey and Russia are indicative signs of what may well constitute the biggest challenge in the history of the European Union. The European Identity Workshop defined the concrete substance of secular institutions against the background of growing xenophobic and extremist movements and the increasing significance of religiosity. Participants re-envisioned the term "unity in diversity" for Europe and propose novel integration and toleration policies.

POLICY ADVISER

Erhard Busek

PROFESSOR

Christine Landfried

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Carmen Dege



Transatlantic Relations Workshop

THEME

Rethinking the European defense strategy

- The EU and NATO: Coordinating capabilities and commitments
- Reforming CSDP: Europe's role in global conflicts
- Middle East: The utility of intervention
- The relationship with Russia: Balance against or cooperate with?

DESCRIPTION

With Europe's neighborhood plagued by conflict and instability and with terrorism endangering the lives of European citizens, the Transatlantic Relations Workshop sought to redefine European security priorities and designate a coherent strategy for addressing them. Participants explored the evolution of EU-NATO cooperation, the strengthening of European international presence through a reform of the CSDP, a new strategy for preserving stability in the Middle East, and the future of the EU's relationship with Russia.

POLICY ADVISER

Eileen O'Connor

PROFESSOR

Mai'a Cross

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Tyler Bowen



Entrepreneurship Workshop

Unlike most think tanks, European Horizons believes that changing Europe requires not only policy proposals but also practical business ideas. As such, our ESC 2016 featured an Entrepreneurship Workshop that brought together innovators in order to develop business projects that can have a positive economic and social impact on Europe. Participants presented their business plans to a panel of judges consisting of distinguished business figures, the MBA student coordinating the Entrepreneurship Workshop, and our Executive Directors.

This year, the participants of the Entrepreneurship Workshop were asked to formulate business plans based on the following prompt:

More than 350,000 migrants have reached Europe in 2015. This number is expected to increase dramatically in the near future. These migratory flows present a new challenge for European societies that now need to integrate those arriving. This entry of immigrants will impact European Identity as well as the European economy.

Given this challenge, please propose a business plan that you believe can foster the integration of admitted immigrants into European societies. Your business plan should aim to improve the quality of life for both the admitted immigrants as well as the European citizens. In addition, please quantitatively evaluate the impact that your business plan will have on the European economy and qualitatively discuss its effects on re-defining European identity.

JUDGE

Paolo Zannoni

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR

Marco Pau

Plenaries





AFTER ESC: EUROPEAN SECURITY SPRING FORUM



From April 8th to April 9th, 2016, the European Horizons convened for a European Security Spring Forum, bringing together leaders and thinkers to explore challenges facing Europe and the US-European partnership. The Forum was supported by the German Marshall Fund Foundation, the Bertelsmann Foundation, the German Embassy in Washington D.C., and the European Parliament Liaison Office with the US Congress. This forum was immediately followed by the Panel on American Visions for the European Question, co-hosted by the McCloy fellows, the Project for Democratic Union (PDU), and European Horizons.

Fifty participants attended with the goal of bringing together committed students who lead the research efforts and activities for European Horizons chapters at their respective universities. They developed and presented European responses to various security challenges, and discussed their findings with one another and with experts. The distinctive mark of this Spring Forum was to combine student-led blue-sky thinking with the expertise and practical knowledge of seasoned policy makers and experts.



Chapters developed a response paper on each of the following four topics:

- **A European Army:** What would a European security order look like in which Europe takes on more of the burden of defense and deterrence, but still cooperates with the United States? What capabilities does it need for achieving this goal? In particular, does it need a European Army? How would such a European Army relate to national armies? How would it relate to NATO?
- **Migration and Border Security:** How can Europe deal with migration in a politically sustainable manner that stays true to its values? What are the links between demography and security—both on the sender and on the reception side of migration? How can Europe balance different interests, i.e. security, human rights protection, and a peaceful and stable neighbourhood?
- **European Intelligence:** How can Europe improve its cross-border intelligence system to ensure security? Does Europe need its own unified intelligence service? What is the role of transatlantic cooperation and other interests, i.e. due process and data protection? How does technological change impact the answers to these questions?
- **Security and the social contract:** What are the domestic preconditions for a strong security policy? What are the links between domestic political legitimacy and external defense? How do these interact with foreign policy goals, particularly in trade, finance and migration?



THANK YOU



We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals, institutions and companies that have made this project not only possible, but a real success:

Our ESC Team



The European Horizons Team

NASOS ABUEL
Executive Director of European Horizons

OLGA KARNAS
Executive Director of European Horizons

ALICIA TEE
President of the European Student Conference
2016

STEVEN ROETS
Logistics Coordinator

DENIZ SAIP
Logistics Officer

ECATERINA VLAD
Logistics Officer

ALICIA BORJA ALVAREZ
Logistics Officer

SARA JONES
Cultural Chair

ELIAS VERE NICOLL
Participants Coordinator

CLIO MEGHIR
Participants Officer

PATRICK DEMKOWICZ
Participants Officer

AISENOUR BITSEN
Director of Finance and Institutional Partnerships
at European Horizons

MARIANNA TROIA
Sponsorships Officer

MIKOLAJ SUCHY
Sponsorships Officer

NIKLAS DENINGER
Sponsorships Officer

KRISTIN ECKERT
Sponsorships Officer

DAPHNE MARTIN
Sponsorships Officer

JOHANNES BEHRINGER
Director of Marketing and External Relations at
European Horizons

ANNE-SOPHIE HARLING
Public Relations Manager

SARA YOO
Social Media Strategist

JOHN TANISKIDIS
Media Officer

LUCKY YONA
Web Master

MARCO PAU
Director of Innovation Activities at European
Horizons

ALVISE MARTINI
Innovation Strategy Officer Philipp Koenig
Innovation Strategy Officer

MARTIN PLAVEC
Innovation Strategy Officer

CHRISTIAN HOFFMANN
Innovation Strategy Officer

ILIANA LAZAROVA
Coordinator of the Economy and Innovation
Workshop

CHLOE COLLIVER
Coordinator of the Democracy and Institutions
Workshop



IZABELA KOLODZIEJ

Coordinator of the Immigration and Integration Workshop

CARMEN DEGE

Coordinator of the European Identity Workshop

TYLER BOWEN

Coordinator of the Transatlantic Relations Workshop

MISAEEL CABRERA

Chapters Coordinator

AISTE ZALEPUGA

Journal Coordinator
Managing Editor of Review of European & Transatlantic Affairs

MAX KRAHÉ

Director of Networking Activities at European Horizons

MIRIAM JUAN-TORRES

Director of Policy Research at European Horizons

ELIZABETH MILES

Policy Associate

LOUIS METCALFE

Policy Associate

SEBASTIAN HUEMPFER

Policy Associate

ALEXANDER FRANK

Policy Associate

MAX SCHAFFER-LANDAU

Policy Associate

EUGENE LIM

Auditor

IGOR MITSCHKA

Board of Directors of European Horizons

MELINA SANCHEZ MONTANES

Board of Directors of European Horizons

PAUL LINDEN-RETEK

Board of Directors of European Horizons

RENÉE HAFERKAMP

Special Adviser of the European Student Conference 2016 at Yale University



Our Sponsors and Partners



Erasmus+

Jean Monnet Erasmus+ Programme



ERSTE Stiftung



Yale SCHOOL OF
MANAGEMENT

Yale JACKSON INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS



Erasmus+, Yale University, Yale Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, ERSTE Stiftung, EPinDC, European Parliament, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Yale University, Department of History at Yale University, Ethnicity, Race and Migration Program at Yale University, European Studies Council at Yale, OISS International Programming Fund.

The European Commission for the Jean Monnet Project grant of the Erasmus+ Programme

The Yale School of Management, and especially David Bach, Senior Associate Dean for Executive MBA and Global Programs.



