

## Annual General Meeting

### European Confederation of Political Science Associations (ECPSA)

in Valencia

June, 9, 2008, 3:15 pm – 6:45 pm  
and June, 10, 2008, 10:25 am – 2:20 pm

### Minutes

Present:

Association	Representatives
Austrian Political Science Association	Monika Mokre
Croatian Political Science Association	Branko Caratan
Finnish Political Science Association	Kia Lindroos
French Political Science Association	Didier Georgakakis
German Political Science Association	Suzanne S. Schüttemeyer Felix W. Wurm
Hungarian Political Science Association	Andras Bozoki
Italian Political Science Association	Mauro Calise
Norwegian Political Science Association	Marcus Buck
Political Studies Association Ireland and UK	Neil Collins
Political Studies Association UK	Richard Topf
Spanish Political Science Association	Francisco Llera Pablo Onate
Swedish Political Science Association	PerOla Öberg
Swiss Political Science Association	Simon Hug
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)	Klaus Armingeon
European Political Science Network (epsNET)	Richard Topf
Independent Observer	Paul Furlong

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from the Russian Political Science Association, Slovak PSA, Romanian PSA, Czech PSA, Portuguese PSA, Danish PSA, Lithuanian PSA and Dutch PSA.

#### *1. Welcome and Introduction*

Pablo Onate, the host of the meeting, and Francisco Llera, the President of the Spanish Political Science Association, welcomed the participants in Valencia. Suzanne S. Schuettemeyer, the preliminary president of ECPSA, presented the way in which the meeting was to be managed. All participants introduced themselves.

## *2. Approval of the agenda*

The agenda, which had been previously distributed among the members, was approved.

## *3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting in Berlin*

The minutes of the meeting in Berlin which had been previously distributed among the members, were approved.

## *4. Report on the development of ECPSA*

Suzanne S. Schuettemeyer reported on the development of ECPSA. She informed the present members about the Political Science Associations (PSAs) that had joined the ECPSA so far (23) and those which had shown interest in doing so but had not yet declared membership formally. She elaborated on the non-competition with ECPR and epsNET domains, clarifying the field in which ECPSA is going to work and develop its activities.

## *5. European excellence ranking, and 6. Strategies of internationalization*

Uwe Brandenburg from the German CHE (Center for Higher Education Development) delivered his presentation of a project on a European excellence ranking in political science and explained a strategy of internationalization for departments and universities. After discussion of the topic, the members decided that ECPSA should not get involved as an organisation in the studies developed by the CHE. Associations, if they so wished, should cooperate on a bilateral basis with the CHE.

## *7. Future activities of ECPSA*

The members discussed in depth further activities of ECPSA and reported on the situation in their individual countries concerning the various topics of a future action plan. On that basis the following plan was adopted:

### a) State of affairs of the Bologna process

The member associations of ECPSA will take stock of the political science degrees offered in their countries on the levels of BA, MA and PhD programmes. For this purpose, Suzanne S. Schuettemeyer will circulate a synopsis with items for which information should be collected in the member countries (e.g. name of programme, university / department where it is offered, duration, number of ECTS etc.). This collection of data shall serve several goals: more precise and comprehensive student information across borders; definition of problems, in particular with regard to comparability and mobility; development of recommendations for future amendments in the ongoing Bologna process, etc. This can also be of use in future endeavours to develop a core curriculum of the discipline. But even if ECPSA does not assume a close definition of a core curriculum, it will strive for a document containing a common understanding of the minimum contents of political science in Europe.

b) Degree accreditation systems

Each representative will send a brief report to the Secretariat with information on the practice of accreditation in his/her country (e.g. how many agencies, public or private, connections with ENQA, consequences of accreditation denial, objects and methods of measurement etc.). Besides this report each member will send a proposal with names of colleagues (between two and five) that could act as peer reviewers for accreditation purposes in other countries. On this basis the Secretariat will compose a list of peer reviewers and circulate it among all member associations.

c) State of affairs in civic education

As there is a strong need for information about structures, contents, practices, and procedures of civic education in each country, Monika Mokre offered to elaborate and circulate a questionnaire on the basis of the Austrian experience in order to gather information on these issues from across Europe.

d) Career patterns for political science university teachers and researchers

It would be very useful for the mobility and career enhancement of young teachers and researchers to obtain a clear map of structures of positions and ways of promotion in Europe. Thus, it was decided to gather information to these effects from the various countries and produce a list with data on possible positions, qualification requirements, tenure positions, salary structures etc. Moreover a glossary shall be compiled to facilitate the understanding and comparability of the different terms used for academic positions in the various countries.

e) Student mobility in Europe

After a brief discussion on the difficulties to foster student mobility in Europe, Markus Buck offered to deliver a form to gather information on the evolution of student mobility in each country. Richard Topf offered to make proposals for enhancing student mobility and draft a form to gather information on the students' activities during their stay abroad (e.g. awards, qualifications, etc.). Both items shall be discussed at the next ECPSA annual general meeting.

It was proposed that this action plan could be phrased as a research project in order to get financial support from national or European institutions. Didier Georgakakis offered to contact EU authorities to explore different ways of obtaining this financial support for ECPSA activities.

### *7. Elections to the Executive Council*

Suzanne S. Schuettemeyer was proposed as candidate for President of ECPSA. The vote was as follows:

12 Yes  
0 No  
0 Abstentions

Therefore she was appointed as ECPSA President for the next term.

Four names were proposed as members of ECPSA EC: Andras Bozoki, Neil Collins, Kia Lindroos and Pablo Onate. This proposal was supported by all those present, and they were appointed as the members of the ECPSA EC, with Suzanne S. Schuettemeyer, for the next term. The Secretariat of the German Association DVPW will serve as the Secretariat of ECPSA for the next two years.

#### *8. Exchange of information between Political Science Associations*

It was agreed that members will send further information on their associations to the Secretariat in order to circulate it among ECPSA members and to complete ECPSA's web site.

#### *9. Mutual benefits for members of ECPSA*

The British and the German association have agreed on providing the same mutual benefits to all ECPSA members, especially conference fees. It was approved to discuss this topic in general at the next annual general meeting of ECPSA on the basis of a proposal that the EC will elaborate and circulate prior to the meeting.

#### *10. Any other business*

Since no other business was suggested, the President closed the meeting, thanking the hosts and all participants for their contributions and good atmosphere along these two days.

Pablo Onate

Suzanne S. Schuettemeyer