



Paris, 5 October 2011

Dear Member of the European Parliament

The *French Political Science Association (Association Française de Science Politique)* would like to draw your attention to an issue that is of great importance for the research and higher education landscape of France: the inclusion of social sciences and humanities in the future funding programmes of the European Union.

We are member of ECPSA, the European Confederation of Political Science Associations, which earlier this year addressed the Commission with our proposals for the Eighth Framework Program and our position to the Green Paper. We would like to provide you with as much information as possible for the upcoming negotiations of the Eighth Framework Programme. For this purpose we include:

*ECPSA's letter to Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn of February, 28, 2011*

*ECPSA's position paper on the Commission's Green Paper of May, 25, 2011*

*ECPSA's mission statement for some initial information on the goals and activities of our European confederation.*

If we can be of any further help in this process, please let us know.

Kind regards

Nonna MAYER  
President of French Political Science Association (AFSP)  
Research Director at CNRS (CEE, Sciences Po Paris)

For more information in our activities, see <http://www.afsp.msh-paris.fr/>

ECPSA c/o DVPW University of Osnabrueck FB 1 D-49069 Osnabrueck

- The President -

Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn  
European Commission  
Berlaymont Building  
200 Rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Osnabrueck, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Dear Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn:

The European Confederation of Political Science Associations was founded to provide political science associations in Europe with a forum for the deliberation of common issues and a European framework for cooperation. Most political science associations in Europe now work together in ECPSA to achieve these goals.

On behalf of the discipline in Europe, ECPSA wishes to contribute to the European Union's goal in the 8<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme "to speed up progress toward a genuinely unified European Research Area", as expressed in the Green Paper of the European Commission.

In this process, the Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) ought to play a vital role. The challenges and opportunities Europe is facing can indeed only be tackled successfully by integrated instead of compartmentalised approaches of natural sciences and SSH. This, however, is not the same as saying that SSH may only play auxiliary roles for instance in assessing the risks and the acceptance of new technologies. There is no doubt that SSH can fulfil service functions of that nature when research is required to increase knowledge for innovation in the spirit of the Innovation Union flagship. This would, however, not make use of the true potential of SSH – and this potential is eminently practical as has been proven again and again in the past. These disciplines have the capacity

- to substantiate concrete policies;
- to identify the conditions under which economic growth and social progress, internal and external security and peace are possible given the current ecological and demographic developments;
- to act as early warning agents; and,
- to provide longer term concepts and visions about the development of Europe.

As a consequence, the intrinsic goals laid down in the Green Paper can only be achieved if the SSH address the grand societal challenges. Aside from being important partners in supporting research on these challenges, SSH must:

**European Confederation  
of Political Science  
Associations**

**c/o German Political Science  
Association (DVPW)**

University of Osnabrueck  
FB 1 – Sozialwissenschaften  
D-49069 Osnabrueck

T: ++49.541.9 69-62 64  
F: ++49.541.9 69-62 66  
E-Mail: [dvpw@dvpw.de](mailto:dvpw@dvpw.de)  
Internet: [www.ecpsa.org](http://www.ecpsa.org)

**Executive Committee**

Prof. Dr. Suzanne S. Schüttemeyer, Germany (President)  
Prof. Dr. Andras Bozoki, Hungary  
Prof. Dr. Neil Collins, Ireland and United Kingdom  
Prof. Dr. Didier Georgakakis, France  
Prof. Dr. Oddbjørn Knutsen, Norway  
Prof. Dr. Pablo Oñate, Spain  
Ass.Prof. Dr. Cirila Toplak, Slovenia

**Executive Director**

Felix W. Wurm  
Dipl.Soz.Wiss., M.A. (USA)

- The President -

- (1) retain their separate space for research in policy areas where natural sciences are obviously absent, i.e. other flagships under *Europe 2020* (in particular the Platform against Poverty and New Skills and Jobs), the external dimension and the democratic dimension of the EU.
- (2) tackle cross-cutting themes independently such as poverty/welfare, integration/migration, democracy/representation and its crisis at all levels of governance.
- (3) develop the interdisciplinarity that is necessary to deal with these topics, which, in part, have also been identified by the METRIS report on emerging trends of SSH in Europe and also reflect the targets laid down in *Europe 2020*.
- (4) prove their skills to provide effective instruments for the implementation of the European Research Area throughout Europe. To achieve excellence it is of particular importance that the existing human resources are brought together in a wider and widening Europe.

As the European Confederation of Political Science Associations, we would also like to point out from our own experience that it is of special value to integrate Central and East European colleagues in projects, enhance the participation of female researchers and create an information network of the discipline through which common thematic interests and respective specialists can be identified and brought together systematically. To improve the capacity to work in a common and European dimension, ECPSA in its answer to the Green Paper will propose a new instrument aimed at unifying SSH research in Europe.

Innovation – be it technological, non-technological or social – needs the support, the separate themes and special skills of SSH. This is also true for other important societal challenges for the EU which should not be overlooked in the next Framework Programme – whether we think of poverty, employment, reinforcing the EU on the global scene or in its neighbourhood regions. This should be reflected in the next Framework Programme and the status of Social Sciences and Humanities therein by allocating an independent research budget to these disciplines.

Kind regards,



Prof. Dr. Suzanne S. Schüttemeyer

Attachment

- List of Associations which endorsed the letter

## **Associations which endorsed the letter:**

Austrian Political Science Association  
Czech Political Science Association  
Danish Political Science Association  
Dutch Political Science Association  
Finnish Political Science Association  
French Political Science Association  
German Political Science Association  
Hungarian Political Science Association  
Political Studies Association of Ireland  
Latvian Association of Political Science  
Norwegian Political Science Association  
Portuguese Political Science Association  
Romanian Association of Political Studies  
Russian Political Science Association  
Slovenian Political Science Association  
Spanish Political Science Association  
Swiss Political Science Association  
Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom

Osnabrueck, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2011

## **The European Confederation of Political Science Associations: position paper on the Commission's Green Paper**

The European Confederation of Political Science Associations (ECPSA) welcomes the Commission's Green Paper and has sought to respond to it on behalf of the profession across Europe. The ECPSA has consulted widely in all areas of the continent and has been particularly conscious of the needs of scholars in states in which social science in general are at a nascent stage.

Political science, along with other HSS disciplines, has a great deal to offer the EU in addressing the Grand Challenges it has set itself. The future of Europe as a world leader in innovation and entrepreneurship is, in large part, dependent on political initiatives in public policy and democratic engagement. Nevertheless, the political science community in Europe recognises the shortcomings that need to be addressed to maximise the HSS contribution to the research agenda. Consequently, if the need for a specific grand challenge is a strong priority, the Confederation asks the Commission to launch a period of reflection about creating policies and instruments exclusively dedicated to the building of a more efficiency, consistent and accessible European field of SSH.

### **The State of the European Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS).**

The ECPSA made this diagnostic of HSS in Europe. On one hand, it suffers from

- fragmentation;
- nation specific methodologies; and,
- lack of financial resources

The ECPSA also point out that the way that HSS faces up to the internationalisation challenge can be greatly improved. The costs (financial, time, linguistic training) introduced by this trend have been largely underestimated. To this respect, a particular endeavour is needed to foster the European values, included multilingualism, intellectual diversity, accessibility to consistent European reviews, integration of the young, women and people for all countries in the European space (included countries on the borders of EU) as a member of the European Community of HSS researchers.

**European Confederation  
of Political Science  
Associations**

**c/o German Political Science  
Association (DVPW)**

University of Osnabrueck  
FB 1 - Sozialwissenschaften  
D-49069 Osnabrueck

T: ++49.541.9 69-62 64  
F: ++49.541.9 69-62 66  
E-Mail: [dvpw@dvpw.de](mailto:dvpw@dvpw.de)  
Internet: [www.ecpsa.org](http://www.ecpsa.org)

### **Executive Committee**

Prof. Dr. Suzanne S. Schüttemeyer, Germany (President)  
Prof. Dr. Andras Bozoki, Hungary  
Prof. Dr. Neil Collins, Ireland and United Kingdom  
Prof. Dr. Didier Georgakakis, France  
Prof. Dr. Oddbjørn Knutsen, Norway  
Prof. Dr. Pablo Oñate, Spain  
Ass.Prof. Dr. Cerila Toplak, Slovenia

### **Executive Director**

Felix W. Wurm  
Dipl.Soz.Wiss., M.A. (USA)

At the same time, Europe's strengths are formidable:

- high degree of diversity;
- substantial capacity; and
- strong tradition in multidisciplinary.

Interesting models of innovation, such as the Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, have helped secure the European advantage of scholarship based on its major contributions for several centuries and its major contributions in the latter half of the last century. Europe still boasts a critical mass of researchers and talent – assets boosted by recent Framework Programmes. The ECPSA particularly points to the high potential for scholarship on the implementation of policies aimed at the major social and societal issues facing Europe – global warming, tightening supplies of key resource, ageing societies, economical and social exclusion and security. It also wishes to highlight the need to understand the challenges to Europe's democratic and social model in a world deeply transformed by the new global political, economic and social issues.

### **The need for a new EU Policy for HSS**

Given these different elements, the ECPSA asks the Commission to encourage the HSS in two ways.

- Proposal 1. Build a significant and specific Grand Challenge in order to achieve the societal aims mentioned in the Green Paper
- Proposal 2. In parallel, launching and setting up a period of reflection and debate about the specific needs of the European SSH in the globalisation context.

Some avenue should be encouraged in this regard:

- creating a council of SHH, close to the model existing in some big country in order to build a framework for the specific needs and rule appropriate for HSS;
- setting up a consultation with and within the HSS community, raising these questions (and others);
- building a more accessible translation capacity, available in plural language, and for relatively small project;
- encouraging diversity of publications, in supporting new collections or support for already known collections but less dependant for global editorial market bias in order to develop quality and innovation;
- increasing the number and the accessibility of European database in HSSP; and,
- encouraging European learned bodies in the field to build tailored assessments for social sciences less reliant on bibliometrics.

# **THE EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS**

## **ECPSA**

The European Confederation of Political Science Associations (ECPSA) promotes the discipline of political science throughout Europe. As the European higher education landscape is increasingly harmonised, there is need for an organisation to promote the discipline's interests and pursue its professional goals. We who study and analyse politics seek through the Confederation to make political science more meaningful in public debate and policy-making. ECPSA facilitates collaboration between political science associations with the aim of improving services and benefits to the members of each.

ECPSA has as its main functions to:

- (1) provide political science associations in Europe with a forum for the deliberation of common issues (such as teaching, curricula, research and resourcing, etc.) and a framework for cooperation;
- (2) represent political science as a discipline to the general public, policy-makers and the media;
- (3) facilitate the mobility of academics and students across Europe;
- (4) share information on the Bologna process and other developments of the higher education landscape in Europe and enhance the interests of political science in those processes;
- (5) support democratic political / civic education;
- (6) contribute to the development of methods and standards of quality assurance and accreditation;
- (7) ensure that decision-makers consider the discipline's interests in regard to issues of doctoral training, employment qualifications and professional standing, both nationally and across Europe;
- (8) disseminate best practice in the management and organisation of academic and professional associations;
- (9) develop relations with other political science groups, associations and with cognate disciplines.