

International Summer School and G20 Simulation Exercise

'New World, New Ideas: Security and Stability in the Contemporary Global Order' 03 – 08 July 2011, Brussels

Draft report

TEPSA and the University of Cologne co-organised an International Summer School “New World, New Ideas: Security and Stability in the Contemporary Global Order” 3 – 6 July 2011 at the Fondation Universitaire that preceded a G20 Simulation Exercise (7 – 8 July 2011). This International Summer School and G20 Simulation Exercise was a joint THESEUS / MERCURY event. THESEUS is a project funded by the Fritz-Thyssen Foundation that has set out to foster the European debate. MERCURY is a collaborative project funded by the Commission’s 7th Framework Programme that deals with multilateralism and the EU in the contemporary global order.

The participants of the Summer School and Simulation Exercise had been accorded their role in the Simulation Exercise already two months before the beginning of the Summer School in Brussels. Although the selection of delegates was randomly structured, great attention was paid to the fact that participants did not represent the country of their real origin or were grouped together with participants from the same MERCURY partner institute. Thus, participants were challenged to draft the position papers of the individual delegations by exploiting the full range of means of virtual communication.

During the Summer School the participants were offered a broad range of information on multilateralism in general and the G20 in particular. The Summer School was kicked-off by an introductory session and the presentation of the documentary ‘Inside Job’, that reveals insights into the financial crisis of 2008. This rather informal start of the Summer School provided the participants with the opportunity to get acquainted with the topic in a hands-on manner, as well as to get to know each other.



The lectures of the International Summer School covered the broad range of the given topic and provided in depth knowledge on the main issues dealt with in academia as well as on the practitioner’s perspective. High profile academics shared their thoughts on multilateralism and global governance in general and the G20 in particular. The first three panels aimed at discussing the broader framework of global governance and multilateralism (Zaki Laidi, Sciences Po, Paris), institutions (Robert Kissack, IBEI) and regional integration (Luk van Langenhove, UNU-CRIS).

Robert Kissack, Researcher in Residence who supervised the participants during the Summer School

The latter panel was enriched by the contribution of Chen Wenbing from the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the EU who deliberated on aspects and impact of regional integration on the Asian continent. A second panel on regional integration focused on Latin America. Karl Buck (former Head of Division 'Latin America, Caribbean', Council of the EU) elaborated on Latin America's potential to represent a key player in the new global order. The strengths and weaknesses of this global actor were discussed within a very lively debate.

Iain Begg (LSE) provided an in depth introduction into the economic sphere of global cooperation by tackling the given question of 'G20 in the Global Economy: A Strong Partnership for Economic Growth and Sustainable Development'. This panel was perceived as very valuable given that the participants were not students of economics and hence the simulation of a G20 summit challenged them to assimilate detailed knowledge on various issues of economics and financial markets. To this end the lecture given by Lucia Quaglia (Sussex University) on the reform of global financial markets that was discussed by Diego Valiante (CEPS) also contributed very valuable insights. Cinzia Alcidi (CEPS) completed the introduction into the aspects of economic global cooperation by elaborating on the different instruments of global and EU tools of crisis management.

The lectures given by Louise van Schaik (Clingendael Institute) on 'Sustainable Growth: Acting on Green Energy Security and Climate Change Challenges' and by Jean-Victor Louis (ULB) on 'Organisational, Institutional and Legal Framework of Global Governance' completed the Summer School's agenda. Louise van Schaik elaborated extensively on the relevance of climate change policy and how this was dealt with by the European Union as well as on the global stage. Stefaan Vergote (DG Climate Change, Commission) added information on the practical implementation of climate policy. Jean Victor Louis' contribution drew the picture of the evolution of the G20 and the EU's role within. His thoughts were discussed by Sarah Bega (University of Cologne) who enhanced the presentation by the consideration of the G20's legitimacy.

Last but not least the students were given extensive insights into how a G20 summit is structured and into the course of events of the G20 by Carsten Pillath (Director General, Council of the EU, DG Economic and Social Affairs). He motivated the participants to actively discuss the G20 structures, which represented the perfect preparation for the simulation of the G20 summit that was to start the following day.



Moreover, the schedule of the Summer School offered time slots for extensive informal pre-negotiations among the various delegations. Such working groups were supervised by the so-called Researcher in Residence Robert Kissack (IBEI). Robert Kissack in cooperation with Funda Tekin (University of Cologne) and Mirja Schröder (University of Cologne) sought to provide sufficient input in order to allow for well structured negotiations.

Fireside chats between the Presidency and delegations

This also implied that delegations were reminded of the positions that they had initially defined and the need to defend such positions rather than to readily give in to a compromise. However, the

concerns that the summit would reach an agreement too early and too easily was not confirmed in the end. Although, the negotiation style remained friendly and constructive till the end refraining from any open confrontations or offences positions hardened as negotiations proceeded and certain issues were heatedly debated till the very last minute.

In the end the G20 summit that was observed and evaluated by Wolfgang Wessels (University of Cologne) reached an agreement on declaration comprising 20 pages on “New World, New Ideas: Security and Stability in the Contemporary Global Order” that was signed by each delegation. Although all participants entered the game of the simulation exercise the minute they arrived in Brussels taking advantage of each coffee break and evenings to find allies for their positions there were some outstanding performances that were awarded: The USA represented by Michaela Schmidts (University of Cologne) and Gianna Alessandra Sanchez-Moretti (IAI): the best written contribution; China represented by Christian Hausner (Charles University) and Wilna Swanepoel (University of Pretoria): the best team work; the EU represented by Ruth Ildiko Allerstorfer (University of Edinburgh), Ulyana Kohut (IAI) and Zbynek Kralik (Charles University): best negotiator; Mateo Urquijo: best oral contribution; the Presidency represented by Neal Burtoft (University of Cologne), Felix Moldovan (University of Edinburgh), Giulia Romano (Sciences Po, Paris) and Mira Voegeli (University of Cologne): effective coordination.

Building on the evaluations submitted by the participants and on own impressions the combination of the International Summer School with the Simulation Exercise can be assessed as successful and beneficial. The opportunity of extending the knowledge and the position of the individual delegation by academic lectures and discussions with practitioners allows the participants for a comprehensive preparation of the summit. However, in the future it might be considered to extend the information on the topic to be discussed as well as possible negotiation tactics that is provided preceding the summer school and the simulation exercise.

In general it can be concluded that the combination of the International Summer School and the G20 Simulation Exercise represents a valuable precedent for future teaching activities on multilateralism and global governance.



Family picture of the G20 summit