

THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Prof. Wassenberg, Birte

Résumé :

The course deals with the role of the Council of Europe as an external actor and its interaction with other European and International Relations, in particular with the European Union. It will assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of the two organizations and their mutual relations, which alternate between cooperation and competition. By retracing the history of the Council of Europe, its main tools of international cooperation will be assessed in different policy fields: human rights (the European Convention and the Court on Human Rights), minorities, education and culture, environment, democratic security, etc. But the course will also deal with the geopolitical function of the Council of Europe which counts both Russia and Turkey among its member states and it will address the responses of the Council of Europe to new challenges in International Relations: cybercrime, international terrorism, human trafficking, etc. The course takes on a professionally orientated direction by inviting administrators from the Council of Europe to witness about their experience and there will be practical sessions with simulation games to be performed by the students.

Plan du cours :

1. Introduction

Introduction to the course:

- Structure and functioning of the Council of Europe

Working groups:

- The statute of the Council of Europe

2. The beginnings of the Council of Europe (1949-1969)

From the setting up of the Council of Europe until the Paris summit of the EEC (1949-1969)

Working groups on examples of activities in the Council of Europe:

Human Rights

Culture

Multicultural Society

Teaching of History

Teaching of languages

Protection of environment

Europe and the world

Youth work

Health protection

3. The development in cooperation/opposition to the EEC 1969-1989

The enlargement and deepening of activities in the Council of Europe and its co-existence with the EEC/EU until the East-West detente (1969-1989)

4. The pan-European Organisation 1989-2009

In search for a pan-European identity for the Council of Europe: the enlargement of the Council of Europe and its role as a pan-European organization after the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989

Working groups on the enlargement procedure

5. Recent developments (2009-2014)

The Human Rights Courts reforms

The debate on the accession of the EU to the European Court of Human Rights

The Council of Europe combating new threats: cybercrime, corruption...

Crises in the Council of Europe with recent conflictual situations of Member States

6. Examples of fields of cooperation: Culture, Youth and environment

The cultural convention and its application

Promoting education, culture and sports for all

Eurimages

The European Youth Centres and its intercultural activities

Protection of environment and animals

Explication of the simulation game on a session of the Parliamentary Assembly on the admission of the Kosovo as a member of the Council

7. Original cooperation methods and structures

The Venice Commission

Monitoring

The Congress for local and regional authorities

A profusion of decentralised cooperation bodies

Simulation game

8. Which role for the Council of Europe in the European architecture

Final comparative analysis of the Council of Europe with regards to the EU and other international organizations

- The approach to European integration (theory)

- Objectives and development of the Council
- Relationship with other organizations: between cooperation and competition
- The future ?

Discussion et conclusion

- **During the course: intervention of at least one high civil servant from the Council of Europe on his field of competence.**

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