



COVERING European Accession and Economic Affairs

August 24-26, 2006

Prague

Salonek cislo 1

Hotel Olšanka

Táboritská 23

Praha 3

A seminar for journalists organized by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue and Transitions Online with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the Open Society Institute

The advantages to joining the European Union are enormous, but the accession process requires EU hopefuls to make dramatic economic and political reforms. These reforms will have wide-ranging implications for member countries. In order for journalists to cover this subject they need to understand the big picture and they also need to be familiar with the workings of the Brussels bureaucracy.

This special seminar is aimed at helping sharpen the coverage of TOL reporters in the months to come. Journalists from Southeast Europe – Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania – will gather in Prague for three days to broaden their knowledge of the economics and politics of the European accession process.

Scholars, policy makers and senior journalists will share their insights on a range of topics, including the economics of enlargement, experiences of the new member states, trade liberalization in SEE, how to navigate the European Council and Commission, how lobbies work, the potential for corruption in the accession process, and how to come to grips with EU jargon.

Please note that times of some of the sessions may change.

IPD-TOL Seminar 24-26 August

Participants should submit by August 18 any articles they have written on EU accession to Peter Green at peter.green@pobox.com and be prepared to discuss them on Saturday, August 26.

Workshop Agenda

Day 1 – Thursday, August 24

- 9:45 am – 10:15 am **Introductory Lecture.** Course overview and general business: **Anya Schiffrin.**
- 10:15 am – 10:30 am **Tihomir Loza on logistics** and planned **follow-up** for the seminar.
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Reinhilde Veugelers on Transition Economies**
Veugelers will discuss the stylized economic facts of transition in Europe (the "magnificent 8"). From the cross-country variation in success, the critical elements in the transition process are derived (including the elimination of soft budget constraints, privatization and attracting FDI).
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Lunch break in the nearby restaurant: U dvou hrabalu, Chelčického 14
- 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Graham Bowley on the Politics of EU Enlargement** Bowley will lay out the political positions of different countries towards enlargement. He will discuss how to report on this topic and how to convey national moods to readers.
- 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm Coffee break
- 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm** **Reinhilde Veugelers on globalization and how it relates to EU integration.** Veugelers will discuss the process of EU and global market integration and its micro- and macro-economic effects. It will then assess the EU's performance amidst a continuing process of global market **integration.**

The phenomenon of delocalization will receive special attention. Finally, the reaction of EU policy makers to address the EU's poor growth performance, most notably the Lisbon agenda, will be discussed at some length.

Day 2 – Friday, August 25

- 9:00 am – 11:00 am **Reinhilde Veugelers on Enlargement.** Veugelers will discuss the pre- and post-accession strategies and confront it with the performance of both old and new members states and tries to identify good practice in terms of accompanying policies necessary to reap the benefits of enlargement.
- 11:00 am – 11:15 am Coffee break
- 11:15 am – 12:30 pm **Graham Bowley on the role of the European Commission** in monitoring countries' accession. Bowley will take journalists through the process of country visits, ongoing reports and final recommendations to the European Council. The focus of the presentation will be on the Commission's role and the stories that come out of it.
- 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch break
- 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm **Kateřina Šafaříková** on media resources in Brussels, coping with *Eurospeak* and how journalists can successfully navigate **Brussels institutions**.
- 3:00 pm – 3:15 pm Coffee break

IPD-TOL Seminar 24-26 August

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm

Graham Bowley on the role of the **European Council**: the weekly meetings of EU ambassadors and the final summit meetings of heads of states. He will look at the issue of Cyprus in Turkey's accession and discuss the Council's politics in making the ultimate decision.

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm

David Král on the effects of enlargement on **old and new member states**

Day 3 – Saturday, August 26

- 09:30 am – 11:30 pm **Mary O'Mahony on trade and CEFTA negotiations.** Regional trade in the Balkans, the process of modernization and expansion of CEFTA, the expected effects of trade liberalization on investment and the common energy market.
- 11:30 am – 1:00pm **Peter Green and Barbara Pechotova, from Transparency International, on corruption in the accession process:** The path to EU membership is littered with cash for candidate countries, particularly in agriculture and the development of regions outside the capital city. And when there is money to be had, corruption is sure to follow. We will discuss how to find out where the money comes from and who's getting it.
- 1:00pm – 2:30 pm Lunch break
- 2:30-4:30pm 3:15 pm – 4:30 pm **Brian Montgomery, Anya Schiffrin and Peter Green** will lead group discussion on plans for **future coverage**. Participants to fill out evaluation forms.

The Speakers

Graham Bowley was a *Financial Times* journalist based in London and Frankfurt. He was European Union Correspondent and Brussels bureau chief for the *International Herald Tribune*. He is currently Contributing Writer to the *Financial Times'* Weekend section, and lives in New York.

Peter S. Green covered Central Europe and the Balkans from 1989 to 2003, most recently for *The New York Times*. He now lives in New York where he was Deputy Business Editor of the *New York Post*.

David Král graduated in law from Charles University in Prague. He has been the chairman of the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy since 2000 where he also serves as the director of the EU policies program. He lectures at the University of Public Administration and International Relations in Prague, and previously lectured at Charles University's Faculty of Social Sciences. He is a certified trainer in EU modules for public administration. During the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe and the Intergovernmental Conference 2003/2004 he was a member of advisory groups of the Czech Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister. He is a member of the board of PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society), gathering think-tanks and policy institutes from Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States.

Tihomir Loza is Transitions Online's deputy director and is in charge of the organization's projects in Southeast Europe. Since 1987 Tihomir has worked as a writer and editor for media organizations in the former Yugoslavia and internationally, including *Oslobodjenje* daily, BBC Television and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting.

Mary O'Mahony is Senior Economic Advisor, Stability Pact for SEE. Prior to her secondment to the Stability Pact in 2002 by the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. O'Mahony worked with an Irish-based international consulting company specializing in economic development in transition economies. She has worked throughout Central and Eastern Europe on assignments funded by the European Commission, the EBRD and the World Bank as well as bilateral donors. The majority of assignments focused on the

areas of trade development and investment promotion. Ms. O'Mahony is currently responsible for coordinating the Stability Pact's Trade Liberalization initiative in Southeastern Europe. She also contributes to the Pact's responsibilities in the Infrastructure Steering Group for Southeastern Europe and other initiatives on an ad hoc basis.

Kateřina Šafaříková has been Brussels correspondent of the Czech daily *Lidové noviny* since September 2004. Between 2000 and 2004 she worked as a senior reporter and editor for the Czech weekly *Respekt*. She specializes in European affairs and Czech foreign policy. Kateřina studied journalism and political science in the Czech Republic and France.

Anya Schiffrin is the Director of Journalism Programs at the Initiative for Policy Dialogue, which has a website for reporters www.journalismtraining.net and organizes workshops around the world. Schiffrin spent 10 years working as a business journalist including three years in Amsterdam and two years in Hanoi as bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires. She has freelanced in Spain, Turkey, Pakistan and the UK. Schiffrin is co-director of the media concentration at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Her textbook, *Covering Globalization: A Reporter's Handbook*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2004 and has been translated into Mandarin and Vietnamese. Translations into Arabic, Spanish, French and Serbian are forthcoming.

Reinhilde Veugelers is professor of Managerial Economics, Strategy and Innovation at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. She was a visiting scholar at Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management, at Sloan School of Management (MIT), Stern Business School (NYU), ECARES/Université Libre de Bruxelles, Université de Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne), Universitat Pompeu Fabra & Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and Universiteit Maastricht. Her research is concentrated on the fields of industrial organization, international economics and strategy and innovation. She is co-promotor for the Flemish Government "Steunpunt" on R&D Statistics, a CEPR Research Fellow (London) and currently an Economic Advisor at the Bureau of European Policy analysis (BEPA) of the European Commission, on leave from the KU Leuven (2004-2008).

The Participants

Robert Alagjovovski, Macedonia

Polia Alexandrova, Bulgaria

Bojana Bozanic, Croatia

Iulian Comanescu, Romania

Marius Dragomir, Romania

Igor Jovanovic, Serbia

Marina Kavaz-Sirucic, Bosnia

Cristina Muntean, Romania/Czech Republic

Artan Puto, Albania

Aida Ramusovic, Montenegro

Mirna Skrbic, Bosnia

Dragan Stavljanin, Serbia

Fatmire Terdevci, Kosovo