

SUMMIT

J e a n M o n n e t P r o j e c t

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SUMMIT Dissemination Conference - results

[The European Council. Spreading knowledge and fostering research on a key institution](#)

Dear reader,

This SUMMIT newsletter is dedicated to the SUMMIT dissemination conference. More on the SUMMIT deliverables (publications and online teaching tools) and roundtables – e.g. at the European University Institute, Florence – will follow in the next edition.

Dissemination Conference 16-17 January 2017

While snowflakes covered roofs and gardens of the historical buildings at Grunewald, leading experts on teaching and re-researching the European Council gathered at the SUMMIT dissemination conference at the "Europäische Akademie Berlin" (EAB). After the hosts Eckart Stratenschulte (EAB) and Wolfgang Wessels (CETEUS, University of Cologne) had welcomed the participants, discussions evolved quickly on how the European Council can contribute to solving the manifold crises of the EU, and on how knowledge of these processes can be made more accessible to the public.



First picture: Michael Kaeding, Uwe Puetter, second picture: Yvonne Nasshoven, Funda Tekin, Thomas Westphal, third picture: Ebru Turhan, Wolfgang Wessels, Mathias Jopp (all from left to right).

[The European Council: An Anchor in Stormy Times?](#)

In his keynote speech, Jim Cloos, Deputy Director-General for General and Institutional Policy at the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, began his remarks by stressing that the EU faces troubled times since 2008 – especially nowadays in light of Brexit, the increasing distinction between the so-called "ordinary people" and the "elites" and potential changes in transatlantic relations. According to Cloos, the EU needs to respond to the current uncertainty and defend the EU as what it is, namely a Union of states and peoples and a system of checks and balances. He explained why the European Council has always been an anchor in troubled times by referring to its (1) foundation, (2) functioning and (3) role.

Full speech: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/ec-events/dissemination-conference/key-note-speech/>

The European Council and the future of the EU

The first session of the SUMMIT dissemination conference featured a lively discussion on the future trajectory of the EU. The session involved Andrew Duff (European Policy Centre, Brussels), John Erik Fossum (ARENA/University of Oslo), Peter-Christian Müller-Graff (Heidelberg University) and Uwe Puetter (Central European University, Budapest). Uta Stäsche (Free University Berlin) and Sophie Vanhoonacker (Maastricht University) joined the panel as discussants. The session was chaired by Michael Kaeding (TEPSA, University of Duisburg-Essen).

Full report: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/ec-events/disseminations-conference/session-1/>

Speaking notes of Andrew Duff and John Erik Fossum are available upon request. Please send an email to [linda.dieke\(at\)uni-koeln.de](mailto:linda.dieke(at)uni-koeln.de)

Teaching the European Council: Approaches and tools

In the second session the panelists Miriam Vogel (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung), Susana Muñoz (University of Luxembourg), Marieke Eckhardt (University of Cologne), Jürgen Mittag (German Sport University Cologne) and Lenka Curillova (Comenius University, Bratislava) presented their expertise in teaching the European Council. With Hartmut Marhold (Centre International de formation européenne) as chair and Wulf Reiners (Turkish-German University) as discussant, also the suitability of the different tools for different target groups as well as the importance of addressing different senses in teaching were discussed.

Full report and further useful links: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/ec-events/disseminations-conference/session-2/>

<http://www.eurotopics.net/en/> (by bpb)

<http://www.cvce.eu/> (by University of Luxembourg)

<http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/topics-and-material/ec-quizgameo/>

A practitioners' perspective: The role of the European Council for national decision-makers

In session three, Thomas Westphal (Head of Department for European Affairs/Federal Ministry of Finance), Yvonne Nasshoven (Advisor at Office of the Ministers' of State /Federal Foreign Office) and Klemens H. Fischer (Minister plenipotentiary and Head of Department/Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union, University of Cologne) gave insights into the importance and role of the European Council for national ministries – inter alia regarding the financial crisis. They emphasized the Lisbon treaty as a caesura conveying significantly more power from the capitals to the European Council. The session was chaired by Funda Tekin (CETEUS/University of Cologne, Centre international de formation européenne) and commented by Emmanuel Murlon-Druol (University of Glasgow).

Full report: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/ec-events/disseminations-conference/session-3/>

The European Council in times of crises

The fourth session began with an overview of crises in the European Council's history by Jan Werts (EU Mediacorrespondent, Clingendael Internationale Spectator and Montesquieu Institute), and continued with contributions from different perspectives of Yann-Sven Rittelmeyer (European Policy Centre, Brussels), Ebru Turhan (Turkish-German University, Istanbul) and Petya Alexandrova (University of Oxford). The session was chaired by Mathias Jopp (Institut für Europäische Politik) and discussed by Ralf Drachenberg (Parliamentary Research Services/European Parliament).

Full report: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/ec-events/disseminations-conference/session-4/>

The speaking notes of Jan Werts and Ebru Turhan are available upon request. Please send an email to [linda.dieke\(at\)uni-koeln.de](mailto:linda.dieke(at)uni-koeln.de)

The paper presented by Petya Alexandrova is accessible at:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01402382.2015.1104995>

The European Council: Centre of the institutional architecture?

In session five Christophe Hillion (Universities of Leiden, Gothenburg and Oslo), David Schäfer (London School of Economics) and Sergio Fabbrini (LUISS, Rome) examined the European Council's role in the EU's institutional architecture. A legal analysis was given by Christophe Hillion and followed by a contribution of David Schäfer on venue shopping between the European Council and the Council. Sergio Fabbrini took on a critical position regarding the European Council's high degree of intergovernmental influence. The session was complemented by Sebastiaan Princen (Utrecht University) as commentator and Christine Neuhold (Maastricht University) as chair.

Full report: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/ec-events/dissemination-conference/session-5/>

The speaking notes of David Schäfer are available upon request. Please send an email to [linda.dieke\(at\)uni-koeln.de](mailto:linda.dieke(at)uni-koeln.de)

The European Council: What to take away for research and teaching?

The last, summarizing session gathered the chairs of the previous sessions. After a short introduction by Wolfgang Wessels (CETEUS/University of Cologne), Mathias Jopp (Institut für Europäische Politik), Lenka Curillova (Comenius University, Bratislava), Christine Neuhold (Maastricht University), Funda Tekin (CETEUS/University of Cologne, Centre international de formation européenne) and Sophie Vanhoonacker (Maastricht University) reported on main statements and results of their sessions.

Full report: <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/ec-events/dissemination-conference/session-6/>

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