

1st Chania Med-Forum 2013

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The 1st Chania Med – Forum was held from July 25th till July 28th, 2013 under the auspices of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of National Defence and the Ministry of Tourism of the Hellenic Republic, at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania.

*Organized by T.I.C.L.S. in cooperation with the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, the 3 day event focused on **Economy, Energy, Politics and Power**, featuring experts Speakers of the related field and motivated*



participants from more than 20 countries and diverse academic background including Representatives from the Regional Government of Crete, EuroBank, the U.S. Naval Support Activity at Souda Bay, NATO PDD, and more, who contributed their expertise during the Forum.

It is important to mention that the Forum achieved the Organizers' expectations and activated dynamic discussion that provoked insight, productive thought and arguments.

World security globally and regionally, the role of UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the security of energy supply, environmental issues, Track II Diplomacy and gender mainstreaming were some of the issues discussed during the Forum.

*The Opening Remarks, given by **Dr. Aliki Mitsakos** and **Mr. Theodossis Georgiou**, highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary education and briefly explained the history of TICLS, its purposes and aims. Congratulations to the Organizers of the event were given by **Dr. Baourakis**, who stressed out, for one more time, the vital contribution to the next generation's edification of programs like TIAAS and the Forum.*



The Panel of **"Power and Vision in Politics"** was chaired by **Ass. Lect. Oana Antonia Colibasanu** and **Prof. Dr. Rene Repasi**.

Prof. Dr. Repasi in his speech noted that "Power and visions in politics" are just empty words if politics do not matter. Visions that cannot be realised only create frustration. Power that cannot be exercised is meaningless. Politics that in times of globalisation remain at the level of nation-states will be dominated by international markets instead of the other way around. "Power and vision in politics" in a globalised world can only count if sovereignty leaves the boundaries of the nation-state and re-establishes itself on a higher, international level. Sovereignty understood in the light of the Greek tradition as a power that has to be controlled by the people requires democratic accountability. In Europe, the debate about "power and visions in politics" regains its meaning with the establishment of a genuine European democracy through a strong European Parliament.

A very special teleconference was held during the Panel. **Prof. Dr. Tony Sullivan** participated from the United States, a professor for many years' standing in IIPES and an expert in the Middle East issues. Prof. Dr. Sullivan pointed out that the exercise of power in politics both requires and legitimates compulsion and fear, however well concealed. He also mentioned that vision in politics is made up in equal measure of leadership and statesmanship. "The visionary leader and statesman leads by persuasion and inspiration, NOT by force or compulsion. Above all, the visionary leader and statesman must possess what Max Weber called CHARISMA ". He ended that " VISION, expressed through leadership and statesmanship, require, in sum: CHARISMA, bolstered by rhetoric, CHARACTER, buttressed by virtue, COURAGE (especially the ability to say "no)", GOOD JUDGEMENT, based on the classical virtue of Prudence." It has been well said: "Good judgment comes from experience. And experience comes from bad judgment."

It is needless to say that, despite the thousands of miles distance between the professor and the participants, it has been difficult to put a stop to the passionate question and answer session that followed.



The main focus during the second day discussions was the **World Security Globally and Regionally, as well as the role of UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, and Organization of Islamic Cooperation**, the Panel chaired by **Prof. Dr. Batakovic, Prof. Dr. Shahin** and **H.E. Mr. Starcevic**.

Prof. Dr. Batakovic started his presentation by saying that “During the Cold war – the atomic war was a threat, but was never meant to happen, it ended when democracy prevailed. Westerners were happier and more self-confident, because they had an individual approach to life. Democracy, is usually established during peace, which makes it the best thing invented so far”. Furthermore, he pointed out that a pure democracy doesn’t work today anymore “We have the so-called-democracy”.

Prof. Dr. Shahin continued the discussion by illuminating the situation in the Middle East countries, and, of course, referred to the current situation in Egypt. **Prof. Dr. Shahin** added that “due to the fact that Mr. Mohamed Morsi did not do what the people were expecting from him and did not make any ‘steps forward’, they needed to change this situation immediately”.

H.E. Mr. Starcevic revealed in his speech why Croatia made a decision to join the EU and noted that Croatia has applied for membership 10 years ago, in 2003. **H.E. Mr. Starcevic** highlighted that the situation in Europe is very different now and then, ten years ago, but he presented an optimistic view about the stage of Croatia being the 28th EU member country.

Further the discussion revolved to the **World Politics and Economy** issues, where the platform was given to **Mr. Konstantinos Papadopoulos** and **Mrs. Ioanna Pavlopoulou**, who highlighted that accountability standards create shared value for business and society. The success of every company is affected by the supporting companies and the infrastructure around it.

The last day of the Forum, 27th of July, focused on issues such as the **World Energy: “Energy Trilemma”** (Energy Security, Social Equity & Environmental Impact Mitigation), Energy prices and corridors: A political power play?, Security of Energy supply, role of International Organizations, Water-Climate-Food, Resource nationalism and the need for mutual interdependence.

Prof. Dr. Antonios Foscolos and **Dr. Konstantinos Filis** pointed out that there are new realities in the global energy market because of the impact of the financial crisis, due to the fact that some countries phase out nuclear power production (Fukushima) and also that by 2030 the world economy is set to double, and energy demand to rise by 1/3.

They also dealt with the issue of the Eastern Mediterranean and they stated that:

“There is no other path for the region. Investors, buyers, importers and consumers all want certainty, a long-term, uninterrupted energy flow, and reliable and predictable partners, whether they will be suppliers or transit countries. Broad cooperation based on emerging common interests will require a moderation of the hostilities currently plaguing the region”.

*The last session was dedicated to **Track II Diplomacy** and was chaired by **Prof. Dr. Kulich, Dr. Mitsakos and Ass. Lect. Colibasanu**. The audience was briefly introduced to what is Track II Diplomacy and the significant role it enacts these days. **Ass. Lect. Colibasanu** specified that “Track II diplomacy” is relatively new as a concept. We talk about it as a part of conflict management today, but also as a shaper of society – Track II diplomacy is seen as a tool to solve the conflicts within a society or even a region. In this sense, Track II diplomacy is a specific kind of informal diplomacy where non-officials, intellectuals, social activists, military representatives, religious thinkers, etc. , engage in dialogue with the aim of finding solutions to problems affecting society”. **Dr. Mitsakos** also presented the experience of Track II Diplomacy gained through years of involvement in International NGOs and International educational programs. Furthermore, the gender issue was brought up, the different styles of approach between the genders were discussed as to the possibility to find a balance, when it comes to the involvement in different organizations and positions, and if the balance is even necessary.*

29 countries and 36 universities were represented during the Forum, a diversity that greatly contributed to the comprehensive spectra of thoughts and views discussed that also served as “food for thought” for more discussions that followed under the moon lit sky of Chania and further. All participants, from TIAAS students to Ambassadors and Scholars, left with a feeling of completeness that could lead to productive involvement in citizenship and beyond.

