

Welcome to MERCURY Multilateralism and the EU in the Contemporary Global Order

The days in Edinburgh are dark and short, the snow is falling, and the delegates to the UN Climate Change conference in Copenhagen are wrapping up talks as I write this. But if nowhere else, at least there are bright spots and progress in the MERCURY consortium – Work Package I is drawing to a close, with its three working papers soon to be made public. Between them, they amount to a ‘state-of-the-art’ on our understanding of multilateralism today. They will be a great resource for both scholars and policymakers for some time to come. Likewise, MERCURY’s ‘Glossary of Multilateralism’ has gone live on the website, with several dozen entries on multilateralism from academics and practitioners alike.

As I mentioned in the first newsletter, there is a lot going on in addition to our ‘official’ deliverables. MERCURY members presented papers at the ISA conferences in New York (2009) and soon New Orleans (2010), as well as the ECPR conference in Potsdam. MERCURY was also a co-sponsor of the ‘Networked Regionalism versus Institutionalized Regionalism’ conference at the EU Centre in Singapore this month.

I’d also like to mention that we’ll be holding our second plenary meeting in Brussels this March. There will be a public session on the afternoon of 3 March, which will feature our very own John Peterson and Wolfgang Wessels speaking on MERCURY’s progress to date. We’ll also hear from Professor Zaki Laïdi of CERI Sciences Po on EU multilateralism, as well as a Brussels policy insider soon to be confirmed. It’s open to the public and we look forward to welcoming you there!

Meanwhile, best wishes for the holiday season from the entire MERCURY team.

Mark Aspinwall

What is MERCURY?

MERCURY is a consortium of academic partners formed to examine critically the European Union’s contribution to multilateralism. It explores multilateralism as a concept, an aspiration, and a form of international order.

The MERCURY consortium is composed of the following nine institutional partners:

- University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (MERCURY co-ordinator)
- University of Cologne, Germany
- Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome, Italy
- Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Paris, France
- University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Fudan University, Shanghai, China
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden
- University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Offer for young researchers!

MERCURY’s partner project EXACT - a Marie Curie Initial Training Network in the field of EU external action - has published its call for application.

Deadline is 31 January, 2010.

For more information please see page 4 or visit www.exact-training.net.

The MERCURY Newsletter is published twice a year by Gunilla Herolf, leader of Work Package V Dissemination (herolf@sipri.org). If you wish to be included or taken off the distribution list please contact Information Manager: Theresa Höghammar (hoghammar@sipri.org). MERCURY is financed by the EU Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme

Read more at www.mercury-fp7.net



Recently Published

First Working Paper!

Conceptualising Multilateralism

by Caroline Bouchard and John Peterson
University of Edinburgh

“Our central aim is to categorise multilateralism in theoretical and conceptual terms, and thus begin to develop theoretical propositions that can be tested. We provide a platform by assessing (briefly) multilateralism in historical and comparative perspective, and offering a conceptual framework for the examination of specific forms, models and cases of multilateralism. We focus on the four main factors that condition multilateralism: 1) different contexts, 2) different goals, 3) different forms, and 4) different meanings”

Link: <http://www.mercury-fp7.net/index.php?id=10072>

Glossary of Multilateralism

First version of the Glossary now available

As part of the work to elaborate and clarify form of multilateralism MERCURY is producing a glossary of multilateralism.

The first version is now available, containing 43 glossary terms related to multilateralism.

For more information see www.mercury-fp7.net

Look out for DATEX database!

MERCURY will set up a database categorising legal acts on external relations instruments in the framework of the European Community (EC) and the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) from a multilateral perspective. A first version of DATEX will be launched in January 2010, a final version will be available in December 2010.

Calendar of events

3-4 March 2010

Plenary meeting plus joint workshop Work Packages II (“Architecture of EU External Relations”) and III (“Multilateralism in Practice”), Brussels

July 2010

Kick-off meeting Work Package IV (“Organised Multilateralism”), Rome

July 2010

Stakeholder conference, Brussels

January 2011

Workshop Work Package III (“Multilateralism in Practice”), Prague

February 2011

Workshop Work Package IV (“Organised Multilateralism”), Rome

October 2011

MERCURY joint conference with the projects EU4Seas and EU-GRASP, together with Stakeholder conference, Brussels

MERCURY Present

MERCURY at the PSA Annual Conference 29 march-1 April 2010

The Political Studies Association Annual Conference will be held in Edinburgh from Monday 29 March - Thursday 1 April 2010. The PSA is one of the world's longest established political studies associations. It is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year and the conference promises to offer a very stimulating and attractive programme. In addition, the British International Studies Association will be joining the PSA this year, making it a joint conference.

The MERCURY team is submitting two MERCURY panel proposals:

The first panel will present its findings in three papers: (1) Conceptualism Multilateralism, (2) Competing Patterns of IR and (3) Developing the Doctrine of Multilateralism. The second panel will present four papers: (1) EU institutional set up in the cases of health and the CFSP, (2) Cooperation in the North – Multilateralism or Mess? (3) Externalising EU Market-Related Policies and (4) Externalising EU Immigration and Asylum.

MERCURY in Singapore 6-8 December 2009

MERCURY was one of the co-sponsors at the conference on “Networked Regionalism versus Institutional Regionalism – Managing Complexities in Regional Cooperation and Global Governance”. The conference, which took place 6-8 December 2009 in Singapore explored and debated different conceptions of regionalism, comparing Asian and European of region-building. See the programme at:

http://www.eucentre.sg/past_events.php

Presentation of MERCURY Institutes

University of Edinburgh, UK, Mercury co-ordinator

The University of Edinburgh was ranked by The Times recently as number 20 in the world. It has an outstanding reputation, hosting (among others) the Europa Institute and the Institute of Governance. Its School of Social and Political Science has been involved in a number of collaborative research projects, including the FP6 Network of Excellence 'EU-CONSENT' and the FP6 'Expanding the Knowledge Base of European Labour Migration Policies' (KNOWMIG). Edinburgh acts as the institutional head of MERCURY and leads Work Package I 'Mapping Modes of Multilateralism'. It also contributes to the other Work Packages. The academic team comprises five permanent staff, one post-doc, and one PhD student.



Dr Mark Aspinwall (Department of Politics and International Relations (PIR), is Project Coordinator. He is an expert in international and comparative political economy, and especially the domestic sources of government policy choice. He will work on the EU in the systems of regions, and is responsible for leading the administrative team.

Contact: mark.aspinwall@ed.ac.uk

Prof John Peterson (PIR, Research Director) is Professor of International Politics. He has published widely on EU policy (especially external policy), and been chosen to lead two studies (1989 and 1998) for the European Commission (DG Relex) on transatlantic relations. As part of MERCURY, he led Work Package I and co-authored the paper 'Conceptualising Multilateralism' with Dr Caroline Bouchard. Contact: john@peterberg.org



Dr Chad Damro (PIR) is an expert on International Relations and International Political Economy, with particular emphases on transatlantic relations, international regulatory cooperation, and the role of the EU international politics. In MERCURY he will examine the externalisation of internal EU market-related policies. Contact: chad.damro@ed.ac.uk

Dr Christina Boswell (PIR) is a specialist on European migration policy and knowledge transfer. Her research focuses on these two areas, as well as theories of public policy. She led FP6 Excellence Grant KNOWMIG, and will work on the 'external dimension' of EU and asylum policy. Contact: Christina.Boswell@ed.ac.uk



Prof Andrew Scott (Law) is Professor of EU Studies and Co-Director of the Europa Institute. He has published widely on European economic integration, most recently on subsidiarity, monetary union and economic and social cohesion. He will contribute to studies on the WTO. Contact: Andrew.Scott@ed.ac.uk

Dr. Caroline Bouchard (PIR) is a Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Her thesis investigated the EU's effectiveness at the UN in the policy area of human security. She co-authored the paper on 'Conceptualising Multilateralism' with John Peterson. Contact: c.bouchard@ed.ac.uk



Nur Abdelkhalik (PIR/ Research Assistant) is a PhD candidate at Edinburgh. Her research examines the EU's immigration policy as part of external relations with neighbours. She will contribute to research on the 'external dimension', and migration management with the Maghreb. Contact: n.abdelkhalik@ed.ac.uk

Caroline Laffey is Project Administrator and oversees general management activities during the project. She has over 10 years experience in project management and development work in both national and international contexts. Contact: caroline.laffey@ed.ac.uk



University of Cologne, Germany

The University of Cologne represents one of the nine MERCURY partners. Within the project, the Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science of Prof. Wolfgang Wessels carries out four main tasks.

First, Cologne has been strongly involved with discussing and defining the basic analytical concepts to be used and refined throughout MERCURY's lifetime. In July 2009 a MERCURY workshop was organised in Cologne which produced working definitions and theses to be incorporated in the subsequent project research.

Second, Cologne leads the MERCURY work package which explores the question in how far the institutional set-up of EU external relations actually enables the Union to act multilaterally.

Third, together with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Cologne takes care of the dissemination of MERCURY research results, for exam-

ple via the project website (<http://www.mercury-fp7.net>).

Fourth, together with the Project Coordinator, Cologne carries out a range of MERCURY management tasks.

The core team at the University of Cologne consists of the following persons:



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels has been Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science at the University of Cologne since 1994. He is chairman of the Executive Board of the Institut für Europäische Politik, Berlin and of the Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA), Brussels. Since 1996 he has been visiting professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and Natolin. His priorities

in teaching and research include the political system of the EU, the role of the EU in the international system, the deepening and widening of the EU and theories about European integration. In 2007 the Jean Monnet Chair of Prof. Wessels was awarded the Lifelong Learning Award in Gold, the new flagship EU funding programme in the area of education and training, in the category 'Jean Monnet - European Studies'. Contact: wessels@uni-koeln.de

Dr. des. Nadia Klein is a research associate at the Jean Monnet Chair since 2003. In the framework of several international research projects, she has worked on the EU's foreign and security policy as well as on questions of institutional reform in the EU. In her PhD thesis, she has analysed delegation and agency problems in the EU's civil-military crisis management. Since 2006, she has been a member of the network "European Foreign and Security Policy Studies" (Compagnia di San Paolo, Italy; Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden; Volkswagen-Stiftung, Germany) and the UACES Research Group on European Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management Policies. Contact: nadia.klein@uni-koeln.de



Wulf Reiners, M.A., PhD candidate, works as a research associate at the Jean Monnet Chair since 2007. After his studies in Cologne and Budapest he has dealt with European environmental policy as well as with new modes of governance in the framework of different research projects (e.g. FP6-NEWGOV). While currently preparing a PhD thesis in the field of multilateral

health policy, he is responsible for the tri-national teaching exercise PROTEUS and coordinates the internationalisation efforts of Cologne's department of political science. From 2010 on he will manage MERCURY's partner project EXACT, a Marie Curie training network on EU external action. Contact: wulf.reiners@uni-koeln.de

Training network EXACT in the field of EU external action

MERCURY's partner project EXACT - a Marie Curie Initial Training Network in the field of EU external action - has published its call for application.

EXACT invites applications for 12 fully-funded (3 years) PhD studentships on subjects related to EU external action.

The successful applicants will have the opportunity to:

- * Receive research training from a European team of universities – the Universities of Cologne, Edinburgh and Charles University (Prague) – and think tanks such as IAI;
- * Gain practical experience of professional policy analysis at 2 European think tanks preoccupied with EU foreign policy;
- * Have the possibility of contributing to MERCURY;
- * Pursue a bi-national ('co-tutelle') PhD issued by 2 universities.

With the University of Edinburgh, the University of Cologne, Charles University Prague and Istituto Affari Internazionali, four partner institutions of MERCURY are members of the EXACT training network.

For more information and visit www.exact-training.net.

Please note deadline of 31 January 2010!

MERCURY Lectures 2009

30 Jan 2009 Dr Nathalie Tocci, IAI, Rome spoke at Edinburgh University about 'How to Engage with Political Islam: Lessons from Europe'.

12 March 2009 Prof. Chen Zhimin, Fudan University, Shanghai spoke at Edinburgh University on the theme 'Understanding the Rise of China'.

15 May 2009 Prof. David Camroux, Sciences-Po spoke at Fudan University, Shanghai on the theme of 'Interregionalism: a Critique: The Case of US-ASEAN Relations'.

9 July 2009 Prof. John Peterson, Edinburgh spoke at the University of Cologne on 'Obama and Multilateralism :Hell no More?'. The speech can be found at www.pol.ed.ac.uk/events/transatlantic_seminars/2009_2010/obama_and_multilateralism.