

ISA 2007

Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.

Europe in the year 2030

Scenarios on Power, Society and Energy

VIII. Internationale Sommerakademie

Vom 1. bis 9. September 2007 in Berlin

Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis e.V.

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Schirmherr Bundes-
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Frank-Walter
Steinmeier

“Ich freue mich, dass das Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis im September hier in Berlin mit jungen Experten über die Zukunft Europas diskutieren wird. Es ist für das Gelingen des Projekts Europa von besonderer Bedeutung, dass sich die künftigen Entscheidungsträger gemeinsam und interdisziplinär mit den drängenden Fragen unserer Zeit auseinandersetzen.”

Schirmherr Bundesaußenminister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Von David Krebs und Bijan Moini

Das Studentenforum im Tönissteiner Kreis zeichnet sich durch das internationale Profil seiner Mitglieder und deren Projektarbeit aus. Entsprechend der Satzung soll die Begegnung zwischen deutschen und ausländischen Studenten sowie der Austausch von Information über Deutschland und das Ausland gefördert werden. Darüber möchte der Verein seinen Mitgliedern einen Rahmen bieten, bereits während des Studiums internationale Erfahrungen zu sammeln und internationale Kontakte zu knüpfen.

Kooperation mit
ausländischen
Partner-
organisationen

Um diesen Vereinszweck zu erreichen und die genannten Programmsätze mit Leben zu füllen, sind für das Studentenforum naturgemäß Austausch und Kooperation mit seinen zahlreichen ausländischen Partnerorganisationen von herausragender Bedeutung. Den jährlichen Höhepunkt der internationalen Kooperation des Studentenforums stellt dabei die Internationale Sommerakademie (ISA) dar.

Internationalität als
Besonderheit einer
Studentenakademie

Auf Initiative des Studentenforums wurde schon bald nach dessen Gründung (1999) im Jahr 2000 gemeinsam mit einigen ausländischen Partnern das Format einer mehrtägigen internationalen Sommerakademie ins Leben gerufen. Die Grundidee der ISA besteht dabei darin, zur Bearbeitung des jeweiligen Akademiethemas eine internationale Gruppe besonders begabter und engagierter Studenten zusammen zu bringen. Gerade in dieser Internationalität unterscheidet sich die ISA von den zahlreichen Akademien der elf deutschen Begabtenförderungswerke.

VIII. Internationale
Sommerakademie
kehrt nach Berlin
zurück

Seit dem Jahr 2000 rotiert im Jahresrhythmus der Veranstaltungsort und mit ihm die ausrichtende Organisation. So fanden im Anschluss an die Ausgangsakademie in Berlin (2000) Folgeveranstaltungen in Madrid (2001), Paris (2002), Zagreb (2003), Mexiko Stadt (2004), Bratislava (2005) und Warschau (2006) statt, bis schließlich im Jahr 2007 die ISA wieder zurück an ihren Ursprungsort nach Berlin zurückkehrte. Die Konferenzsprache der ISA war – wie seit jeher üblich – Englisch. Daher haben die Organisatoren mit Unterstützung durch einige Teilnehmer den Konferenzbericht ebenfalls in der Konferenzsprache verfasst. Der Authentizität halber werden Auszüge des Berichtes im Folgenden im Original abgedruckt.

Executive Summary

“Europe in the year 2030” was this year’s headline, as 30 Students and Young Professionals from Croatia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Lithuania, Mexico, Poland, Slovakia, and Spain discussed the future of Europe and identified possible policy choices for European decision makers in the future. The first goal of the ISA (International Summer Academy) 2007, which took place from September 1st to September 9th in Berlin, was to understand the multitude of factors determining Europe’s future, to learn about alternative possible scenarios resulting from the interdependency of these factors and to get an idea of the “window of opportunity” open to policy makers. This input was presented in lectures by professionals and academics with the respective expertise and relevant experience. In this context, the conference’s highlight was a high profile panel discussion chaired by former Ambassador Fritjof von Nordenskjöld on the question “Europe in 2030 – A New Superpower?”.

The academy’s second set of goals was to identify three core issues concerning Europe’s future. Three working groups were formed, each of which chose one particular future challenge. After discussing the topic independently, the teams further developed their concepts with the help of professional consultants from Booz Allen Hamilton. The three policies participants decided to work on were:

*European health care,
European higher education and
European identity*

Concept

Why Europe in the year 2030?

While deciding upon the motto for the 8th International Summer Academy, some topics and questions were mentioned over and over again: What will the world look like in the future? Will we be citizens of a European state? Will we have one president who will successfully represent European interests at negotiations, during WTO conferences or in the UN Security Council? Will Europe be a federal state that can succeed in creating a European communal social order? And how will we live? How will cars be fuelled, houses heated and factories supplied with energy? How will the ‘European of tomorrow’ work and what public services will he receive? Will our pension schemes and health system have to be saved by floods of migrants from Africa? How powerful will we become? Will it be sufficient to protect our independence and to keep influencing other regions’ development? In general: What alternative futures lay ahead of us? Can we choose one that we prefer and what can we do to achieve this future development?

The Academy’s goal: a contribution to Europe’s future by the

We therefore choose a motto which could provide answers to the questions above. The Academy’s goal to contribute to shaping Europe’s future with the help of the younger generation’s input was also taken into

young generation

consideration. We also believe that Europe's future development should not be left to coincidence or the will of others. Politicians and responsible decision-makers may need to find convincing answers today in order to take necessary precautions for the future. Additionally, since today's youth will eventually have to face the results of these decisions, we considered it adequate to make some suggestions of our own.

Program

- Methodological Introduction to scenario planning DR. FRANK RUFF, Group Research & Mercedes Car Group Development, Society and Technology Research Group, Berlin
- Global Players and their agenda in 2030 THOMAS KROPP, German Lufthansa AG, Head of Corporate Policy, Member of the Tönisteiner Kreis
- Role and power of supranational organizations in tomorrow's world RENATE NIKOLAY, Member of the Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Trade Peter Mandelson, Member of the Tönisteiner Kreis, Brussels
- European security policy – possible ways of enduring security BERNHARD KAMPMANN, Head of Division for European Security and Defense Policy, German Foreign Ministry, Berlin
- 2030: Hightech-Europe PROF. DR. RER. NAT. EDWARD G. KRUBASIK, former Member of the Board of Directors, Siemens AG, Member of the Tönisteiner Kreis
- Demography and Democratic Participation DR. JÖRG MAYWALD, German League for Children, Managing Director
- Reception at the Mexican Embassy by DR. MIGUEL ÁNGEL PADILLA ACOSTA, Deputy Chief of Mission
- Demography in Europe. Trends and resulting Consequences DR. MICHAEL KUHN, Junior Professor, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock
- Saving European Integration by E-Government? RICARDO ADAME, Corporate Communications Director of Microsoft Central & Eastern European HQ, Munich (Alumnus Studentforum's partner organization, Conferencia Mariano Otero)
- The Role of the Bundestag's Committee for European Affairs JAN MUCK SCHLICHTING, Office of the Committee for European Affairs, Deutscher Bundestag, Berlin
- Discussion on the German Presidency of the European Council 2007 in the Federal Chancellor's Office DR. JAN GRÜNHAGE, Federal Chancellor's Office, Political Relations to EU Member States, Enlargement process, EU Foreign Relations, Council of Europe, Member of the Tönisteiner Kreis
- Reception at the British Embassy Speech by H.E. Ambassador SIR PETER TORRY
- Demography, Human Capital and Economic Growth DR. PHILIPP SCHULLER, Author of the book „Company report

Germany Inc.“, Founder of Thinking Germany e.V., Member of the Tönissteiner Kreis

- Working on Position Papers: Presentation of intermediary results and evaluation DR. DAG-SVEN DIECKMANN, Booz Allen Hamilton, Principal, Member of the Tönissteiner Kreis; Team from Booz Allen Hamilton
- Panel: European Energy Supply in 2030 THOMAS GEISEL, Director for Gas Supply North, E.ON Ruhrgas AG; JOHANNES KINDLER, Vice-President Federal Network Agency, Bonn; Chair: MARKUS TEICHMANN, Management Consultant in the Energy Sector
- The Economics of Sustainable Development ERIC LE GOUVELLO, Founder Edaxis Strategy Consulting and Professor at Sciences Po (with the Chair Développement Durable), Paris
- Energy tax and other instruments for sustainable development DR. ANSELM GÖRRES, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Green Budget Germany (Förderverein Ökologische Steuerreform e.V.), Member of the Tönissteiner Kreis
- Panel Debate: “Europe in 2030 – A New Superpower?“ Chair: Ambassador ret. FRITJOF VON NORDENSKJÖLD, Executive Vice President, German Council on Foreign Relations DR. MARKUS EDERER, Head of Policy Planning, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MATTHIAS OEL, Germany Ministry of the Interior DR. KARSTEN SACH, Federal Ministry for Environment General ret. KLAUS NAUMANN, former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee in Brussels and former Chief of Staff of the Federal Armed Forces DR. RAINER BERNNAT, Vice-President and Leader of Public Sector Group with Booz Allen Hamilton Germany

Due to limited space, only a few lectures can be summarized.

Global Players and their Agenda in 2030

Star Alliance
interpreted
as a supranational
organisation

Lufthansa's Senior Vice-President, Mr. Thomas Kropp, described how he pursued relationships to government officials, both in Germany and abroad. Mr. Kropp put a special focus on "Star Alliance", a network of international airlines, of which Lufthansa is a member. He casually described Star Alliance as a “supranational organization”, using a term most participants were accustomed to applying only to political entities. This way, Mr. Kropp added a supplemental dimension to the common perception that globalization only leads to a transnationalization of corporate structures; he also insisted that this model of uniting global corporations in supranational structures would develop in other businesses areas. Nevertheless, Mr. Kropp did not conclude that such accumulation of corporate power would lead to the private sector competing with public power. On the contrary; by highlighting the necessity of frameworks such as the World Trade Organization, he acknowledged the subordination of the private sector to the goals and

conditions of public policy.

Role and Power of Supranational Organizations in Tomorrow's World

Pled for a European Foreign Service and a European seat in the UN Security Council

Mrs. Renate Nikolay presented a very bright side of the EU story: She is responsible for representing the EU's policy in the WTO and described how EU member states successfully organized and enhanced their importance in negotiations on trade issues. She insisted that only this way the EU would, in the future, be able to act as a global power. She also believes that – within the conference's scope of the year 2030 – the EU could develop a "coherent foreign policy with one European Foreign Service and one European seat in the UN Security Council". Additionally, she mentioned a strengthened European Parliament, a stronger European identity and a consolidated European Union, i.e. not significantly bigger than it is today. When being asked about her opinion on ASEAN, Mrs. Nikolay replied that there is no chance for the South East Asian organization to come even remotely close to the EU in 2030, in regard to political integration, economic significance and strategic power.

Future European Concepts for Security

This Europe will – whether it wants to or not – become a global power

Mr. Kampmann's speech on the current status and future potential for further integration of European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) was particularly valuable to ISA participants. While highlighting that the European public is not yet ready to accept The European Parliament deciding on their (national) army's fate, Mr. Kampmann drew a broad map of where and how European interests were already defended by joint forces. On the topic of Europe's role in securing common interests in its southern border area, he indicated that Spain and other affected regions were not left to fend for themselves. Their concerns were directly addressed in broader European security considerations. However, he also pointed out that the share of the European budget designated for defense expenses is yet too small to enable a qualitative change in the field of common defense. While consenting to EU Commissioner Günther Verheugen's statement that this Europe from Ireland to Anatolia will – whether it wants to or not – become a global power, Mr. Kampmann closed by highlighting the importance of other global actors perceptions of the EU once it is on it's way to enacting an integrated ESDP. Under all circumstances, the potential for conflicts must be taken into account, as the EU gradually transforms into a (perceived) global power.

Demography and Democratic Participation

Enfranchisement of children as means to tackle demographic challenges to democracy

Dr. Maywald's topic was certainly the one most heavily discussed. As a mean to tackle demographic challenges in Europe, Dr. Maywald proposed the right for children to vote beginning at birth. In a country with a steep rise in average population age, the question of democracy becomes more important. In Germany, for example, a large part of the

population is denied the right to vote – namely minors (20 % of all German citizens). In the subsequent debate, the major argument in favor of granting children the right to vote was that only this way political representation would be complete, while the major argument against this proposition was that in most cases parents would be exercising their children's vote by proxy. This would inevitably not meet the "one person, one vote"-criteria. Dr. Maywald argued that the latter would be more acceptable than an incomplete representation and insisted that it could effectively promote political justice in an aging society.

The influence of the demographic change on the future labour market and the health care systems

Demography in Europe: Trends and Consequences

Before beginning his presentation about the impact of demographic change on economy, Dr. Kuhn presented the double dilemma the industrialized world is increasingly facing: the "shrinking and aging" phenomenon of our society. This dilemma drastically increases the dependency ratio, which leads to problems in sustaining the population. This way, Dr. Kuhn said, we risk facing inflation due to the decrease in per-capita income, which in turn results from a decreasing amount of people sustaining an increasing amount of individuals. Possible solutions to this problem, he continued, are an increase of the retirement age, additional education for older employees, stimulation of female labor-market participation, a decrease of unemployment as well as fostering immigration. Apart from labor, health will become an important issue, since a large part of additional years which stem from growing life expectancy are likely to be spent in illness, therefore putting further pressure on the health care systems. Dr. Kuhn highlighted that these and other issues will not be solved by increasing fertility alone, but mainly by strong and comprehensive political solutions.

Three myths on British EU policy

British Embassy:

Debate with H.E. Ambassador Sir Peter Torry

H.E. Sir Torry was certainly one of the most interesting speakers at this year's ISA. Having spent many years in the British Foreign Service, he displayed the rhetoric and care of a dauntless diplomat, who knows British positions on European policies by heart. In his speech, Sir Torry addressed what he called the three mythical pillars of British EU policy. The first myth, he said, was the belief that Great Britain wanted the EU to be no more than a Free Trade Area. He countered this claim by reminding the audience that his country was very engaged in the fight against organized crime and terrorism and that it was the British who first talked about a European Security and Defense Policy – together with the French. He added that, furthermore, Britain would always be ready to increase its efforts in the most crucial areas, specifying health, labor and climate as examples. The second myth presented was that Britain would always unrightfully complain about the high financial contribution to the EU. Sir Torry remarked that – despite the so called British discount – the United Kingdom was still the second largest contributor to the European budget, paying 2.5 times more than France

or Italy, and called it "madness" that 40% of the EU's internal budget is spent on agriculture. Finally, he talked about the myth that Britain would unconditionally favor an enlargement of the Union. The ambassador recalled how well a country like Spain had developed since its accession into the EU and that British foreign policy predicted a similar outcome for Turkey: a chance for the Union to foster liberalization within its boundaries, rather than seeking protectionism and thus preventing further modernization of the continent.

Investing in human capital as the major pull for a prosperous future

Demography, Human Capital and Economic Growth

Dr. Schuller's approach to future endeavors was refreshingly different and integrated less obvious points, which he then analyzed from a very different perspective. He commenced by recalling the definition for economic growth

$$\text{Economic growth} = [(capital)+(labor)] \times (productivity)$$

Dr. Schuller identified human capital as the major factor and therefore most important to ensure a prosperous future in times of great demographic transition. Human capital, he said, was around 150.000 € per person in Belgium, 70.000 € in Portugal and 175000 € in Sweden. This capital is mainly built during four stages: parental education, adult learning, at university and in school. The latter two contribute only around 32% to the total capital an average adult European is "worth". The consequence, Dr. Schuller continued, was to accept the fact that it proves to be more efficient to invest in adult learning than in schools or universities. Furthermore, besides enhanced productivity, he claimed that the increasing mobility of the working-age population is one possible driving force for economic growth. He showed how important the integration of female workers was, how the average German uses 25 % of his/her lifetime for leisure activities and only 8 % for work. This can be attributed to the strong decline in employees' annual working hours. All these issues, Dr. Schuller concluded, had to be addressed and tackled.

Tremendously differing per capita emissions between North America and Europe caused by differing fuel taxes and prices

Energy tax and other instruments for sustainable development

Dr. Görres' passionate presentation started with a comparison of Europe and Northern America and why – despite the very similar ways of life and standard of living – these two regions are so different when it comes to their impact on the environment (CO₂ emissions, tons per capita and year: USA 20.2, Canada 18.3, EU 11.0). He then identified the main reasons for the big difference: energy prices and taxes. European eco-taxes are at 2.8 % (share of GDP), while Canada's are 1.4 % and The United States of America collect only 0.9 % of the annual GDP in eco-taxes. European fuel prices average around € 1.20 per liter, while the US sells fuel for an average € 0.50 per liter. The connection between this data and the high difference in emission levels seems obvious. During the past, Dr. Görres said, two ways of taxation have proven to be most

Shifting the tax burden from labour to pollution through taxing fuel consumption

successful for reaching environmental goals: taxes on energy or on CO₂ emissions. Both concepts provide a simple, easily adjustable and economically neutral shift of the tax burden from labor to pollution.

This market instrument has shown its effectiveness by reducing green house gas emissions by 2-6% and was by time additionally supported by a European Emission Trading scheme. As these concepts have proven quite successful and have an even greater amount of potential, Dr. Görres would like to see them implemented in other parts of the world, which would lead to a decrease of fossil fuel consumption and thus to a decrease of CO₂ emissions. Unfortunately, even with the effort the EU has undertaken until today, he continued, the climate change issue will not be sufficiently addressed, so that additional measures are needed. All in all, Dr. Görres insisted that eco-taxes provide an effective and sustainable market-based tool to help society refocus on environmental issues while keeping the negative influence on the economy to a mere minimum.

Developing Policy Instruments in order to Tackle Future Challenges (Supported by Booz Allen Hamilton)

Formation of three working groups

After having worked on the three chosen issues (European Health System, European Higher Educational System and European Identity), the participants had the opportunity to present their intermediary results to professional strategy consultants. A team of five consultants from Booz Allen Hamilton, who were very much experienced, especially in the field of public sector affairs, attended the presentations in order to provide a sophisticated and professional feedback as well as methodological input for each working group.

This valuable input allowed the ISA participants to develop suggestions for policy makers on how to tackle certain issues that they deemed particularly challenging in the future. For this purpose, working groups of 8 to 12 members were formed after. Each group then chose a topic which they wished to address. ISA participants met every conference day after the last lecture and once more after dinner in order to work in their respective groups on the European Health System, the European Higher Educational System and European Identity.

Danksagung

Die Durchführung der Sommerakademie wäre nicht möglich gewesen ohne die großzügige Unterstützung durch Booz Allen Hamilton, Deutsche Bahn, Deutsche Bank und Microsoft.

Weiterhin möchten wir dem Tönisteiner Kreis und seinen Mitgliedern danken, ohne deren finanzielle und inhaltliche Unterstützung die Gestaltung des Programmes in dieser Form nicht möglich gewesen wäre. Unser besonderer Dank gilt darüber hinaus den Tönisteinern Marcus Bleinroth und Dr. Wolfgang Baare-Schmidt, die durch besonders engagierte Unterstützung zum Gelingen der Akademie einen großen Beitrag geleistet haben. Danken möchten wir außerdem Monika Gottschling und der Geschäftsstelle des Tönisteiner Kreises für die gute Zusammenarbeit in organisatorischen Angelegenheiten.

Kontakt

Für weitere Informationen können Sie den Projektkoordinator David Krebs (krebs@toenisteiner-studentenforum.de) oder den Programmleiter Bijan Moini (moini@toenisteinerstudentenforum.de) kontaktieren.

An der Organisation der Akademie waren beteiligt: Paulina Gonzalez-Tegtmeier, Henry Haaker, David Krebs, Elminaz Khatami, Jacek Kowieski, Arne Lietz und Bijan Moini.

Im folgenden Abschnitt wird die abschließende Paneldiskussion dargestellt.

“EUROPE IN 2030 – A NEW SUPERPOWER?”

Concluding Panel Discussion of the International Summer Academy 2007

- Chair: Ambassador ret. Fritjof von Nordenskjöld, Executive Vice President, German Council on Foreign Relations
- Dr. Markus Ederer, Head of Policy Planning, Federal Foreign Ministry
- Matthias Oel, Federal Ministry of the Interior
- Dr. Karsten Sach, Federal Ministry for Environment
- General ret. Klaus Naumann, former Chairman of the NATO Military Committee in Brussels and former Chief of Staff of the Federal Armed Forces
- Dr. Rainer Bernnat, Vice-President and Head of Public Sector Group with Booz Allen Hamilton Germany

Dr. Ederer, who acts as the representative of the conference’s patron, Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, challenged the panel discussion’s title, indicating it would be inappropriate and even dangerous to discuss the possibility of wanting to become a superpower: “If you want to be a superpower, don’t talk about it! If you talk about it, you won’t be one”.

Ederer’s reasoning relies on the following argument: As soon as any political entity states that it considers itself a current or potential superpower, other political actors will get nervous and try to prevent the self-proclaimed superpower from becoming a real one. Rather, he said, it would be wiser to discuss five prerequisites for Europe to become a leading power. The first of these five prerequisite is indicated by economic strength. Ederer highlighted high competitiveness as the major indication for economic strength, as well as the importance for Europe to remain a knowledge-based society. The second prerequisite according to Dr. Ederer is soft power, including herein – among others – the transformative power the European Union has on neighboring countries and accession candidates. The third point, Ederer continued, is for the EU to develop certain strengths in its hard power capabilities, most importantly the technological standards and unified command structures. The fourth point claims that it was a crucial challenge for the EU to develop a true Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Meeting the other mentioned prerequisites depends on an institutional framework, which is provided for in a European reform treaty.

What is a superpower?

What exactly is a superpower? General Naumann defined a superpower as “an entity that can pursue its autonomous will on a global scale and has the will to act beyond its own sphere of influence”. By this definition, Ederer argued, the EU was very far away from ever becoming a superpower. Additionally, he said, it was as dangerous to believe that all international crises could be resolved without resulting to

the use of military force, as it was to think it was possible to solve them by mere force alone. He suggested that the EU should further develop its military capabilities and seek technological progress as much as possible, proceed with Turkey's EU accession and make itself even more indispensable to the US than it is today. Only through these actions could the EU acquire a position in which it would be able to significantly influence world affairs. However, according to General Naumann, a tremendous disaster is looming over Europe: The demographic development will have a severe negative impact on its military capabilities. The dependency on raw materials and fossil energy sources adds to the problem and will additionally limit the possibilities of developing military capabilities.

Europe's assets: experience in developing new governance structures and a high degree of social cohesion

Dr. Sach recalled Europe's place in a highly interdependent world in which it would need to stabilize and defend its position by promoting technology, especially technology which will face high demand in the future around the world, for example technology related to energy efficiency. On the other hand, he identified nuclear energy as a technology too dangerous and risky, especially when considering the fact that it lacks the power to solve our energy supply problem. On the bright side, Dr. Sach also identified certain strengths that might enable Europe to become something similar to a leading power: Europe has plenty of experience in developing new governance structures, which might prove to be of high value in a globalized world that faces more and more issues which can be addressed only on a global scale and therefore require new governance structures. Additionally, the high degree of social cohesion will prove to be a valuable asset of the European model, for example in comparison to China and other Asian competitors.

Europe may be considered as a leading power in certain policy areas

Mr. Oel basically agreed with General Naumann's definition of a superpower, yet considered it to be rather restrictive. Based on a somewhat wider definition of a leading power, which requires only the ability to successfully enforce own policies in negotiations with other nations, he claimed that the EU may be considered a super power in certain policy areas. The successful negotiations between the EC (European Council) and the WTO (World Trade Organization) show that Europe can indeed enforce its policy very successfully, given that the member states agree on one communal course of action for the EU. In light of its economic significance, namely the Euro, and also its progress in sensitive fields such as ecological technology, Europe can certainly be considered as being ahead of most other global political players. On the other hand however, the EU proved to be slower than its competitors in other areas, such as biotechnology. Also, Europe will have to find more efficient means of protecting intellectual property. Even though Europe cannot successfully compete internationally due to higher costs, it can do so in the fields of innovation, protection of patents and intellectual property rights, which in itself is a crucial prerequisite for a successful knowledge based economy. Though while remaining strong or even

increasing its strengths in these areas, the EU should never neglect the importance of internal security, which will prove crucial for future stability. Mr. Oel concluded by stating that in the end, it all came down to the will of a nation to become or not to become a leading superpower.

Dr. Bernnat closed the introductory speeches with a more economic view on the topic, stating that global competitiveness should be considered the core issue of European politics. The major aspects of this approach are a efficient labor market, political conditions enabling progress, and education. Dr. Bernnat insisted that in light of technological progress, Europe will face completely new challenges in the future, and that this fact alone should be sufficient to focus extensively on providing the framework to ensure that this progress can take place.

After the controversial debate that followed the panelists' introductory speeches, Ambassador von Nordenskjöld summed up that Europe will not be a superpower and does not need to become one either. He claimed that Europe will remain a moderately important political entity, but never the less remain an indispensable player in world politics.

Die Autoren:

David Krebs (25) studiert Rechtswissenschaft an der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin und ist seit 2003 Mitglied im Studentenforum.

Bijan Moini (23) studiert Rechts- und Politikwissenschaften sowie Volkswirtschaft an der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in München und ist seit 2006 Mitglied des Studentenforums.