



SÜDOSTEUROPA-
GESELLSCHAFT

DEUTSCHE WELLE
DW

International Conference
**Political Culture in (Southeast) Europe –
Characteristics, Transfer, Change**

Bonn, 17/18 September, 2009

Program

Conference Venue:

Deutsche Welle, Gremiensaal, Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 3, 53113 Bonn

Conference Committee:

- Gernot Erler** MP, Minister of State at the German Federal Foreign Office, President Southeast Europe Association, Berlin
- Erik Bettermann** Director General, Deutsche Welle, Bonn
- Sonja Schüler** Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich
- Verica Spasovska** Head, Programmes for Central and Southeast Europe, Radio Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Conference Languages:

German, English (simultaneous translation)

Background of the Conference:

Democratic and market-based transformation and the preparation for EU-accession represent enormous challenges for the former socialist states of Southeast Europe. Manifold legal, administrative, institutional and socio-economic reforms and stability criteria have to be brought forward. The national governments have to accept the important role of international institutions for national decision-making processes. The states pass through far-reaching changes which are not at all brought to an end by EU-accession. The gaps between the legal and institutional framework and the *status quo* are large. Political stakeholders are not a guarantee for democracy and stability. Many countries in the region have to cope with increased influences of nationalism, deficiencies concerning the performance and the legitimacy of political protagonists, with appalling corruption scandals and interdependencies concerning political and economic interests.

The conference is based on the general assumption that the political institutions' ability to function is not the only "guarantee" for the stability and the performance of political systems. They also rely on the general socio-cultural framework of the state. The people's attitudes, orientations and behaviour patterns regarding political concerns and the political system *per se* are an important part of this framework. *Ergo* the political culture of the people constituting a nation is of crucial importance for a state's democratic and constitutional development.

The conference is dedicated to the identification and the discussion of manifold general and country-specific particularities, influences and transformation processes of political culture with reference to different "Eastern" and "Western" European states. Thus, important general inter-relationships between characteristics of political culture and developments of political systems will be identified.

Political culture underlies many overall changes which come along with globalization and "Europeanization". Hence, the conference also aims at the discussion of the character and changes of "modern" democracy and raises questions concerning the existence of and the relationship between "specific Southeast European" and "EU-European" characteristics and elements of political culture. And last but not least, it brings forward the question "Is there a need for a democratization of political culture at the European level?"

The event is part of the Southeast Europe Association's special theme "Nationalism, Populism and Political Culture in Southeast Europe". It addresses both experts and a broader public interested in the subject.

Thursday, 17 September 2009

14:00 - 15:00 hrs Arrival of the participants / Registration

15:00 hrs Welcome / Opening

Erik Bettermann, Director General, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Wolfgang Höpken, Vice President, Southeast Europe Association, Leipzig

15:20 hrs Political Culture: Current State of Research, Controversial Issues

Moderation:

Verica Spasovska, Head Programmes for Central and Southeast Europe, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Dirk Berg-Schlosser, Professor, Vice-President of the International Political Science Association, University of Marburg

15:50 hrs Political Culture in the Context of Globalization and Europeanization: Supra-Regional Similarities, National Particularities

Political Culture in Germany

Klaus von Beyme, Professor, Institute of Political Science, University of Heidelberg

Discussion

16:45 hrs Coffee Break

Is there a Specific Political Culture in the Balkans?

Wolfgang Höpken, Professor, Department of Eastern and Southeast European History, University of Leipzig

Political Culture – only a Legacy of the Past?

Wim van Meurs, Assoc. Prof., Institute of History, University of Nijmegen

Discussion

19:00 hrs Reception
Music: Nicolas Simion Quartet

Friday, 18 September 2009

Part I: Political Culture: Framework, Characteristics, Influences

**09:30 hrs Political Institutions / Stakeholders and Political Culture:
Examples from Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria**

Moderation:

Sonja Schüler, Deputy Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

The Role of Political Parties and Elites

Anton Sterbling, Professor, Sociology and Pedagogy, Hochschule der Sächsischen Polizei, Rothenburg /OL

Values and Styles of Political Behavior in Serbia

Zoran Lucić, Director, Center for Free Elections and Democracy, Belgrade

Difficult Dealings with the Legacy of the Totalitarian Secret Services

Alexander Andreev, Bulgarian Department, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

Discussion

11:00 hrs Coffee Break

**11:30 hrs Socio-Economic Change and Political Culture:
Examples from Hungary and Bulgaria**

Moderation:

Hansjörg Brey, Director, Southeast Europe Association, Munich

Socio-Economic Crisis and Social Polarization

Attila Agh, Professor, Institute of Political Science, Corvinus University Budapest

Political Elite, Folk Culture and Mass Media

Klaus Roth, Professor, Institute of European Ethnology, University of Munich

Discussion

12:30 hrs Lunch

**14:00 hrs Ethnic Cleavages and Political Culture:
Examples from Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Gordan Georgiev, Vice-President of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia, Skopje

Denisa Sarajlić-Maglić, Policy Director, Governance Accountability Project, Sarajevo

Discussion

Part II: Transfer of Political Culture

Moderation:

Robert Schwartz, Romanian Department, Deutsche Welle, Bonn

15:00 hrs Institutions of Transfer, Part I

Family and School

Katarina Batarilo, Research Associate, Georg-Eckert-Institute for International Textbook Research, Braunschweig

The Role of the Churches

Josef Homeyer, former Bishop of Hildesheim; former president, Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (ComECE), Hildesheim

15:40 hrs Discussion

16:00 hrs Coffee Break

16:15 hrs Institutions of Transfer, Part II

The Media

Christian Gramsch, Programming Director Deutsche Welle, DW-RADIO / DW-WORLD, Bonn

Civil Society and Political Culture

Smaranda Enache, Co-Chair, Association LIGA PRO EUROPA-Romania, Tîrgu Mureş

Borka Pavićević, Director, Center for Cultural Decontamination, Pavilion Veljković, Belgrade

Discussion

17:45 hrs Break

18:00 hrs

Panel Discussion

Democracy and Political Culture –European Challenges (open to questions of the audience)

Moderation: *Klaus Brill*, Correspondent, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich/Prague

Plamen K. Georgiev, Adjunct Professor, Center for Risk Assessment and Security Studies, New Bulgarian University, Sofia

Christian Giordano, Professor, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Fribourg / Switzerland

Gisela Kallenbach, former Member of the European Parliament, Leipzig

Richard Wagner, Writer and Publicist, Berlin

19:30 hrs End of the Conference