

HOMER

Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence



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WELCOME

The HOMER project has successfully finished its second cycle. On February 5th 2016 the final HOMER workshop on 'The Maastricht Summit: Achievements and Narratives' took place in Maastricht. 26 students from the three participating universities in Cologne, Maastricht and the German Sport University and, in addition to this, a couple of visiting students came together in order to give their presentations and to discuss the empirical material that has been collected in the previous months. Interesting insights and lively debates characterized the workshop that displayed common and different patterns.

Most surprisingly was the ambivalence between the deep political impacts of the Maastricht summit respectively its succeeding treaty and the quite divergent modes of reception and the

struggle for remembrance in more recent times that was identified by nearly all groups. The workshop concluded with a visit of the Province of Limburg where the Heads of State of the then 12 member states negotiated in December 1991 and signed on 7 February 1992 the Maastricht Treaty.

The evaluation of the second HOMER seminar by the students indicated in general a positive reception highlighting the "group work with students from other universities" as well as the new approaches to "discourse analysis" and the "discussion with experts". Critically comments were attributed to the "communication" and "pre-planning of the sessions".

During the summer semester a number of HOMER lectures will take place at all three universities that are part of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence

HOMER while in the winter term the third (and final) joint HOMER seminar will take place in Cologne. This newsletter reflects on the HOMER seminar in Maastricht revealing some impressions of the seminar and presenting a summary on the formal evaluation. The next issue of the HOMER newsletter is dedicated to introduce the third seminar. For further details you may have a look on the web side of the HOMER project (www.eu-homer.eu).

Please, to not hesitate to contact one of the participating professors in case you have any question on the past or the forthcoming elements of the project.

On behalf of the HOMER team
Juergen Mittag

HOMER IN WINTER-TERM 2015/2016: THE MAASTRICHT SUMMIT AND EUROPEAN NARRATIVES

Sophie Vanhoonacker/ Hartmut Marhold / Jürgen Mittag with Wolfgang Wessels and Kiran Patel

Today, the European Council forms the key body in the institutional architecture of the EU. The Maastricht summit in 1991 has reassured its importance, since this summit paved substantially the way to today's European Union.

The seminar addressed the question whether and to which extent the Maastricht summit can be considered as a critical juncture in the history of European integration. Beyond a focus on actors, motives, negotiations and outcomes of the summit, students assessed the way the Maastricht summit was perceived at the time, and how it is remembered today. What were and are the views of

politicians? How do academic scholars write about it? How did the media report about it at the time, and do journalists sometimes refer to it today? On all these issues, there are differences between member states, political camps, and generations? Some differences seem of continuing relevance, other interpretations tend to converge over time. And, more generally, what is the place of the Maastricht summit in the wider history of EU summitry, and what is the role of summits in narratives of European integration?

In the context of this HOMER-Seminar, students from the German Sport University Cologne, Maastricht Uni-

versity, and the University of Cologne engaged in interdisciplinary, research-oriented exchange, worked with a broad variety of sources (newspaper articles, archival material, memoirs, academic interpretations, interviews). They were confronted with contrasting perceptions and narratives of the summit of the time with today's discussion. The introductory and final sessions will take place in Maastricht. The students went to Brussels for a one-day workshop and had the opportunity to hear several lectures in the participating universities.



HOMER IN WINTER 2015/16



The HOMER Project in brief:

HOMER is a research-based teaching program that seeks to identify narratives, focusing on history making summits of national leaders in the history of European integration.

HOMER's background:

The future of the European Union will increasingly be shaped by the perception of its history and an evolving European memory culture.

Against this backdrop, it is necessary to pay more attention to the European Council which has been the key institution in terms of history making decisions.

The project will address three critical junctures in order to analyse their impact on the development of European narratives: The almost forgotten 1969 summit of The Hague was central to the emergence of the EU and the European Council as an entity. The Maastricht summit of

1991 was a history-making act for the deepening of European integration. The 2009 summit of Lisbon opened a new age for the construction of the EU. The project assesses these summits and analyses their roles in developing a 'master narrative' of European integration. The main rationale of the project is to contribute to the evolving European memory culture by scrutinizing past and existing interpretations while simultaneously building on these.

For further information see:

dshs-koeln.de/iesf

jeanmonnetchair.uni-koeln.de

mceg-maastricht.eu

Output of HOMER seminar: Students' final presentations

The variety of narratives and the diverse materials led to an inspiring set of presentations. One group of students analysed British political speeches before and after the Maastricht treaty coming into force with a view to descriptive narratives. This gave a very different angle onto the British perspective as did the cartoons which were the focus of a second group. The illustrations and cartoons in diverse member states brought critically depict rather different aspects of the treaty.

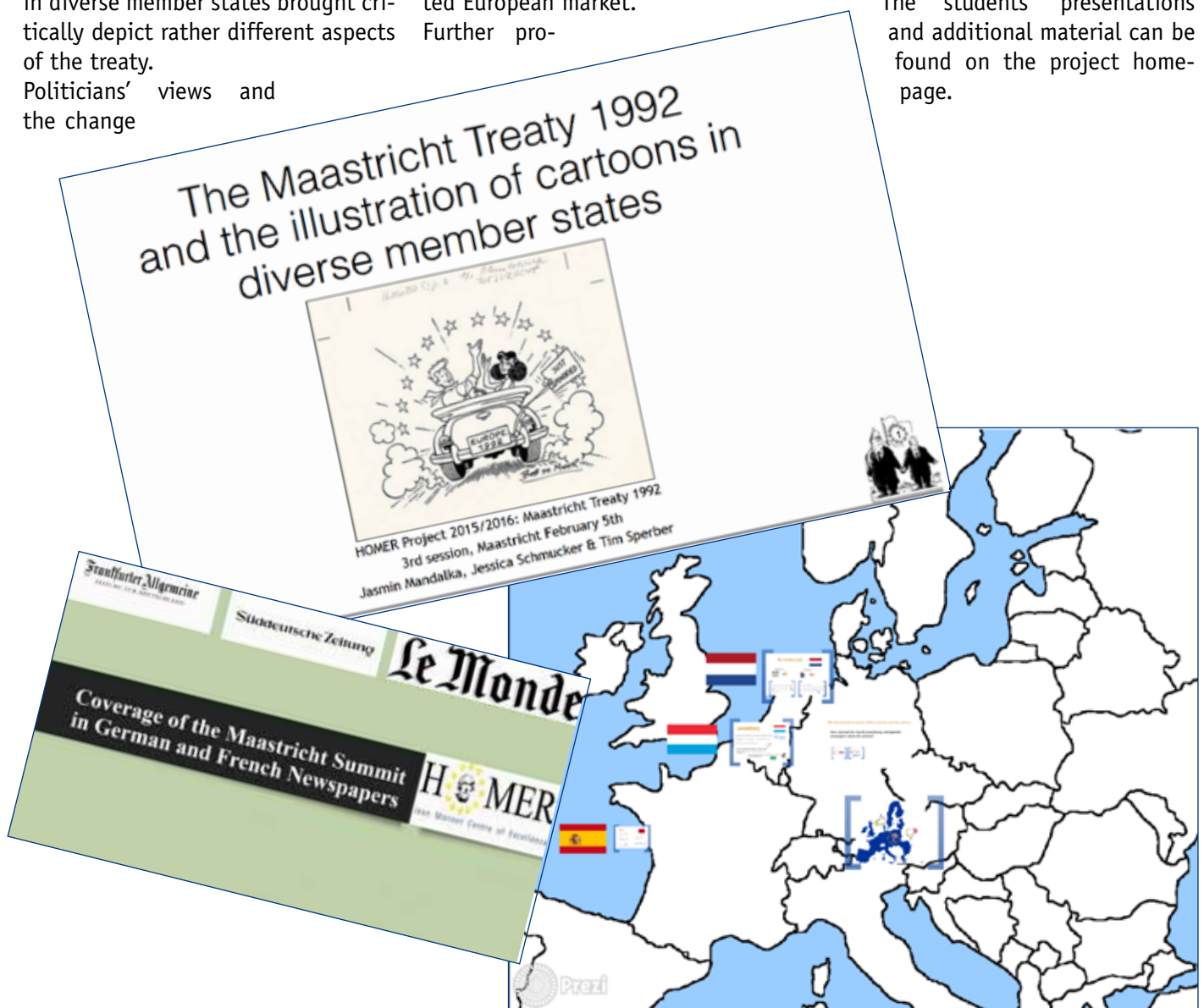
Politicians' views and the change

over time thereof throughout the creation of the EMU were at the center of a third students presentation. With the example of Kohl and Delors and their use of language, the group could identify a consistent emphasis on their focal points: The desire of a simultaneous establishment of monetary and political union and the construction of the EMU as a necessary component and ideal of the integrated European market.

Further pro-

jects delved into the EU-institutions and their reaction to the treaty, the Coverage of the Maastricht Summit in German and French Newspapers or in newspapers from the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Spain. Yet another approach was the individual narration of Maastricht in politicians' memoirs: The subjective aspects of Albert Reynolds' and John Major's take on the topic.

The students' presentations and additional material can be found on the project homepage.



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The Maastricht Summit: Achievements and Narratives – A brief evaluation of the HOMER seminar 2016

Jürgen Mittag

The 2016 HOMER seminar was the second key event of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence "From History to Memory Culture: Narratives of the European Council Summits". This seminar started with a workshop on October 23rd 2015 in Maastricht, where the students from all three universities came together in order to become familiar with the concept of narratives and to start analysis of European Union's past and present. A second workshop took place at the University of Maastricht's Brussels Campus on November 6th 2015. This workshop was dedicated to deepen the knowledge on the topic and to obtain additional incentives from experts and eye-witnesses. In the final workshop in Maastricht on February 5th 2016 the students presented the material and data that has been identified and collected. Against this backdrop, the potentials as well as the limits of the narratives approach have been discussed.

The evaluation that has been carried out after the third HOMER seminar reveals some general trends in view of expectations, preferred elements, support, collaboration and interaction, achievements and also deficits. Expectations: Most students decided to take part in the HOMER project because they aimed at deepening their knowledge on the European Union: Nearly everybody had already attended a lecture on EU's history or political system and was eager to study in-depth the specific nature of

the European Union. "To learn more about the Maastricht treaty and the perspectives of the member states" was another dimension that has been mentioned by a large number of participants. Though many participants had just a vague idea about the narratives concept a clear interest in this approach has been indicated. To get to know more about "different points of view about narratives" and about "the stories" linked with Maastricht was also stated by several participants. Expectations fulfilled/not fulfilled: Around 80 per cent of the students expressed their general satisfaction with the content and approaches of the seminar considering their expectations: In particular the multidisciplinary approach was appreciated since it contributed to a better understanding of the Maastricht treaty and the complexity of the European Union. Many students highlighted also the methodological dimension of the seminar as dimension that has been fulfilled. Methodological and didactical elements: While most students were happy with the introductory workshop stressing that "presentations and discussions are very helpful – especially insiders information that help to understand the context" – a respective number of number of participants was not happy that not all experts did show up in Brussels. The discussions with experts were considered "unfortunately limited; "more practical" information have been expected and "the discussion with the experts could

have been more lively/interactive". On the other hand, "group work with students from other university" was an element that has been underlined by many participants as a stimulating part of the project.

Support was generally perceived as "sufficient" and "good". The lecturers "were quite helpful". Some students would have preferred to go "more into detail", especially in view of data while others appreciated the submission of a broad scope of literature.

Interaction was a highlight of the seminar. It was perceived as "surprisingly well" and as "very good because of social media". Communication "was easy" though it had also been stated the "group as a whole was not very diverse".

General assessment and improvements: The overall evaluation of the second HOMER seminar showed a clear and high acceptance by the students. The topic and the innovative approach were highly welcomed; the seminar was considered as "helpful", "very interesting" and "awesome". Though "organization and communication could have been improved" most students consider this seminar as a highlight of their academic studies so far and would decide to take part again in this project.

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THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Report by Alina Thieme, Jean Monnet Chair, University of Cologne

On January 26th, Prof Dr Wilfried Loth, University of Duisburg-Essen, delivered a lecture on the origin of the European Council in the framework of the HOMER project. The event was held in German and took place in the Research Institute of Political Science and European Affairs of the University of Cologne.

At the beginning of the lecture, Prof Loth emphasised that the debate on the formation of the European Council is controversial in the relevant literature, and that, in general, little is known about it. However, he argued that looking at the origin of this institution can be very instructive regarding its functioning.

Commonly, the founding date of the European Council goes back to the Paris Summit in December 1974 when Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing claimed that the Heads of State or Government shall meet three times per year with the involvement of the President of the Commission but excluding civil servants. However, according to Prof Loth, looking at Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing is only half the truth. Therefore, he proposes going three steps back in order to understand the creation of the European Council.

First, Prof Loth mentioned Charles de Gaulle and Jean Monnet as important characters when studying the foundation of the European Council. De Gaulle's conception of Europe was not only geared to France's national interests. His general idea of Europe was the common market as he was unsatisfied with the dependence on the United States. Although de Gaulle still wanted to be allied with the

which mentioned the foundation of a "European Union", a "common foreign policy" as well as a "common defence policy", failed due to the membership application of Great Britain. The Benelux countries announced that they would not sign up for the creation of a political union until Great Britain had entered the European Economic Community.

Second, Prof Loth drew emphasis on Willy Brandt, Edward Heath and Georges Pompidou. In the late 1960ies, the European Communities faced an institutional crisis due to increasing bureaucratization and decreasing efficiency of the institutions in Brussels. In 1973, Jean Monnet, therefore, prepared a draft for the creation of a provisional "European Government". His aim



United States, he sought to defend autonomy for European countries, and thus, had different consultations with interested governments. De Gaulle's aim was to create a European confederation. Although his idea of a confederate political union met resistance, Jean Monnet saw great potential in de Gaulle's proposal. In a letter to Konrad Adenauer in 1960, Monnet explained that he would support the idea of a European confederation. However, the Fouchet Plans in 1961,

was to develop further the political union and to strengthen the ability to act of the European Community. Initially, however, Georges Pompidou was not confident of Monnet's proposal of a "European Government" as he was under pressure domestically. At the behest of Willy Brandt, he finally agreed to the plan. In this context, Willy Brandt, Edward Heath and Georges Pompidou wanted to create a "Highest Council of the Community" ("Oberster Rat der Gemeinschaft").

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This idea, however, was refused by the Benelux countries, the European Commission and the European Parliament since they feared a decline of the Commission's monopoly on initiatives and a decreasing decision-making power of the Council. For this reason, the Heads of State or Government only decided to meet more frequently in the future at the Copenhagen Summit in 1973.

Third, Prof Loth focused on Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, who supported the idea of Jean Monnet. As a Franco-German leadership duo, they launched an initiative to lead Europe out of the institutional crisis. Their plans included, amongst others, majority votes in the Council as well as the direct election and in-

creasing competences of the European Parliament. The reforms on the European Parliament finally reduced the doubts of the smaller member states to support the Franco-German initiative. Moreover, according to Helmut Schmidt and Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the European Council should become the highest instance of the European Community. Both leaders were still in favour of confidential sessions of the European Council but proposed that the foreign ministers of the member states should also participate in the sessions. This was also an important concession for the smaller member states.

Prof Loth concluded the lecture by stating that "the European Council was a child of Jean Monnet" ("Der Eu-

ropäische Rat war ein Kind von Jean Monnet."). Initially, the creation of the European Council was partly not considered as a completely satisfying solution since it comprises not only members who seek further integration. Nonetheless, the institution was, at the end, not an instrument of renaturation but of extension ("Der Europäische Rat war kein Instrument des Rückbaus, sondern des Ausbaus."). Prof Loth argues that despite some initial difficulties, the potential of this institution should not be underestimated.

Following the lecture, an interesting and lively debate between Prof Loth, Prof Wessels and the approximately 40 participants took place.

PAST EVENTS

29. October 2015

German Sport University Cologne

Nico Schulenkorf (University of Technology in Sydney): Sport für Entwicklung - ein Forschungsüberblick

02. December 2015

Maastricht University

Prof. Wolfgang Wessels (University of Cologne): The European Council Who Calls the Shots? The Internal Dynamics: Answers to a Paradox

08. December 2015

German Sport University Cologne

Marianne Meier (Terre des Hommes international): Mega-Sportevents und Menschenrechte

15. December 2015

German Sport University Cologne

Maren Kröger (UNHCR, Division of International Protection): Sport als Instrument für Entwicklung und Frieden aus Perspektive der Vereinten Nationen

12. January 2016

German Sport University Cologne

Johannes Curtius (DOSB): Internationale Projektarbeit des Deutschen Olympischen Sportbundes

12. January 2016

University of Cologne

Dr. Yvonne Nasshoven (Auswärtiges Amt) : The European Council: A practitioner's perspective

19. January 2016

German Sport University Cologne

Daniel Duben (Mainz): 'Nach HoGeSa ist vor HoGeSa' - Warum ein Gesamtkonzept für Strategien gegen Rechtsextremismus in Fußballstadien notwendig ist!

26. January 2016

University of Cologne

Prof. Wilfried Loth (University Duisburg-Essen) : Die Entstehung des Europäischen Rates

26. January 2016

German Sport University Cologne

Stefan Scholl (Universität Siegen):

Das Wissen der europäischen Sportvernetzung (1962-1991)

01. March 2016

Institut Français Köln

Alfred Grosser (Publizist) : Ohne Europa keine Zukunft

02. May 2016

University of Cologne

Round Table: „Der Europäische Rat und die Kooperation mit der Türkei in der Flüchtlingspolitik“ with Dr. Lale Akgün, MdB a.D., Serap Güler, MdL, Jun. Prof. Dr. Béatrice Hendrich, Universität zu Köln, Dr. Funda Tekin, Universität zu Köln, CIFE

03. May 2016

Kölner Europagespräche im Domforum

Round Table: „Die Herausforderungen der Flüchtlingskrise für die Europäische Union“ with Dr. Lale Akgün, Prof. em. Jürgen Friedrichs, Dagmar Damen, Ausländerbehörde der Stadt Köln, Karl Kopp, Pro Asyl

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New Book: Yearbook of European Integration 2015

The Yearbook of European Integration published by the Institute for European Politics (IEP) in Berlin documents and balances the European integration process from 1980 to the present. The result of 35 years of continuous work is a uniquely comprehensive account of European contemporary history.

The "Yearbook of European Integration 2015" continues that tradition. In the contents of about 100 articles the authors trace developments in European politics in their field of research priority in the reporting period 2014/15. They supply information on the work of the EU institutions, the developments of different policy areas in the EU, Europe's role in global politics and the member and candidate states' European policy.

The Yearbook of European Integration is a project of the

Institute for European Politics (IEP), Berlin, realized in cooperation with the Center for Applied Policy Research at the University of Munich and the Jean Monnet Chair for Political Science, University of Cologne.

Werner Weidenfeld / Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels (Hrsg.): Jahrbuch der Europäischen Integration 2015, Nomos Verlag, Baden-Baden, 2015, 578 S., brosch., ca. 69,- Euro

ISBN 978-3-8487-2653-0



New Book: Europe from A-Z

Europa von A bis Z: the reference book for Europe. In over 70 contributions European experts explain on a sound academic basis all the important topics and terms from the politics, economy, and history of European unification. The paperback is geared towards anyone interested in Europe looking for a reliable source on the current status of European political topics.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Werner Weidenfeld, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels (eds), 14. Auflage 2016, 520 S., Broschiert, 22,- €, ISBN 978-3-8487-2654-7, 2016.



Bürger Europas e.V.: Discover Europe on-site

Supported by the Federal Government's Child and Youth Plan as well as various partners in different regions of Germany, the organisation „Bürger Europas“ will continue the youth-project „Discover Europe on-site“.

There will be events at 12 places throughout Germany. Focus of the events will be a discussion of young people with an Euro-politician on the subject „Europe on-site - Influence and Effects of European Policy for the Regions“. In addition to this a EU-funded project of the special region will be visited.

One of these events will take place at GSU with Axel Voss (MdEP) and approximately 40 to 50 pupils, apprentices and trainees. Apart from the discussion on European Policy, projects and questions on sports and sports policy will be examined.



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