

EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM FOR POLITICAL RESEARCH

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NEWS CIRCULAR

NUMBER 1

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This news circular will be sent regularly to members of the European Consortium for Political Research and in the first instance every two months (except during the summer). Because of Christmas the next issue will be on December 10th: would you please let me have any items which you want to see included by December 1st.

The format will obviously change from time to time but I hope to keep the headings broadly similar to the present ones.

I GENERAL MATTERS AND LINKS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

1. The Ford Foundation has now finally given its approval to the grant for the European Consortium for Political Research.
2. I saw Peter de Janosi on October 14th. We had a comprehensive survey of all the activities of the ECPR and I was under the impression that he was very pleased about the way things had started. He will try to appear in Colchester after the Executive Committee meeting on the 15th of January.

Executive Director: Professor J. Blondel

Executive Committee: Professor Stein Rokkan (Bergen) (*Chairman*), Mr D.N. Chester (Nuffield College), Professor Hans Daalder (Leyden)
Mr S. Hurtig (Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris), Professor Anthony King (Essex), Professor Richard Rose (Strathclyde),
Professor Jörgen Westerståhl (Göteborg), Professor Rudolf Wildenmann (Mannheim)

3. Council for European Studies. I had extensive talks with Stephen Blank, the Director of the Council for European Studies, which suggest that it would be possible to pool resources in a number of fields ranging from exchange of information about visitors, graduate students, etc., to possible joint publications. The matter will be discussed at length at the Executive Committee meeting in January, but I am most hopeful about the long-term collaboration.

4. The Foreign Area Fellowship Programme. I have been appointed to the Committee of the Foreign Area Fellowship Programme for this year: the idea is there also to pool information about graduate students and institutions so as to achieve better placement. No doubt we shall be able to help and I am convinced that this will improve our ability to benefit from the presence of American graduates in Europe.

5. Proposal for a seminar in the Methodology of Cross-Cultural Comparison. The International Studies Association, and Fred Riggs in particular, are anxious to set up such a seminar and to collaborate with European institutions. It looks as if this seminar might take place in Geneva. I have had discussions with Fred Riggs and it is possible that if the seminar is successful the venture will turn out to be regular. I believe we should give our support to the idea but more needs to be done before the proposal becomes firm.

II ECPR MATTERS

a) Central Services Activities

6. We have made a beginning with the inventory: Mrs. Judy Budge will act as research assistant for this purpose and she is starting a series of card indexes relating to i) European institutions; ii) names of faculty members; iii) journals; iv) visitors to European institutions. You will be asked from time to time for questions relating to these matters and I hope you will bear with us. May I ask you once more to fill in the questionnaire which was sent to you some days ago as quickly as possible.

7. I have sent the attached letter to all of those who attended the Munich meeting. Country breakdown was as follows:

(Executive Committee members excluded)

| Country | Number of colleagues attending | Number of institutions represented |
|--------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Belgium | 1 | 1 |
| Denmark | 2 | 1 |
| Finland | 1 | 1 |
| France | 8 | 2 |
| Italy | 3 | 3 |
| Netherlands | 4 | 2 |
| Norway | 1 | 1 |
| Sweden | 2 | 2 |
| Switzerland | 3 | 2 |
| U.K. | 5 | 4 |
| West Germany | 13 | 9 |
| Yugoslavia | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
| Totals | <u>44</u> | <u>29</u> |

8. I have sent to Stein Rokkan notes relating to the letter of organisation, budgetary procedures and links with outside bodies as asked for at the last Committee meeting. I propose to have a meeting with Stein Rokkan on the 29th of this month and we therefore ought to be able to circulate all of you with these notes fairly early in November.

b) Workshops and Seminars

9. Summer School: proposals are under way for the Summer School. Advance notice will shortly be sent to all of you. We are having this weekend an internal discussion about the details of the organisation, the final note will be sent to you with the agenda of the next meeting sometime in December.

10. Workshop on Budgetary Control: I hope to receive as soon as possible from Nuffield College a note relating to this Workshop. Information will be given to you in the next Circular.

11. Membership and Prospective Membership. I went to Germany on the 6th-8th October mainly to visit the University of Mannheim and to have a discussion with a representative of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft. This trip was most interesting: I had the opportunity to see and discuss

at length with the assistants in the Institute at Mannheim; Erich Weede will come to visit Essex at the time of the meeting on the Summer School later this week. It appears that there is a strong possibility that Germany could have up to 10 members in the fairly near future. In particular Bielefeld, Bochum, Konstanz, as well as Cologne, are most eager to join.

12. I had a long conversation with Alberto Sprearfico, the General Secretary of COSPOS: it emerges that not only Florence and Turin, but possibly the Institute in Rome, might become members quite soon; there are also possibilities in Milan and Bologna. I hope that by the early Spring these questions will be satisfactorily settled.

III NOTES AND REQUESTS

13. Max Kaase, Mannheim, is most anxious to know about work under way in other countries about students' attitudes to politics, as this is the area in which he is currently involved. Would it be possible for you to let him know if you know of any such research in your institution or in other institutions of your own country?

14. I have had a request from Sid Tarrow about possible Workshops in comparative party organisation and in Communist parties in Western European countries. Here, too, it would be most useful if you could let me or him know about any work any either of these areas, which is under way at your institution or at any institution in your country.

15. It would be most useful if you could sound the members of your institution about topics for workshops corresponding to fields in which these colleagues are involved. It is essential that workshops be undertaken in those areas in which research is undergone and is at present taking place in a number of countries. If as many as possible from your institutions could state what their current research interests are we could already begin to have a better idea of the points at which a special effort can be made. I am most anxious to receive replies in this respect and I hope it will be possible for you to see to it that the members of your institution do indeed reply.

JB/JB
20.10.70.