

SUMMIT

J e a n M o n n e t P r o j e c t

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SUMMIT - First results and a dynamic agenda

Dear reader,

During the opening months of SUMMIT, our team has been busy gathering students, an interested public, leading academics and practitioners in the kick-off conference and nine roundtable discussions all over Europe. These activities resulted in new perspectives, and future research agendas regarding the ever-developing role of the European Council. Equally importantly, our activities served to collect material and ideas for the production of new formats for studying the European Council: Interviews with experts from different national and professional perspectives will inter alia be the basis for lively webcasts on relevant European Council topics. Thus, an initial success leaves us with a dynamic agenda for the next months.

Kick-off conference with Herman van Rompuy, Martin Selmayr and other leading practitioners and academics

'Grasping the European Council - Raising Awareness for a Key Institution'



As a special highlight, SUMMIT's kick-off conference on 28 and 29 January 2016 in Brussels was opened by Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council Emeritus. A report of his speech can be accessed via <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/events/kick-off-conference/opening-speech-by-herman-van-rompuy/>

The conference gathered about 70 academic experts and practitioners for controversial discussions about the European Council's performance, its role in the EU's political life and problems of researching this institution. Exclusive insights could be gained by speeches of *Martin Selmayr*, Head of Cabinet of Jean-Claude Juncker, *Didier Seeuws*, Head of Cabinet of the previous President of the European Council, now director at the Council of the European Union, *Shahin Vallée*, former economic adviser to President Van Rompuy, and *Zoltan Martinusz*, currently director at the General Secretariat of the Council.

In six working groups, participants elaborated on the topics:

- Researching and Theorizing the European Council: New (?) Intergovernmentalism and Beyond
- Trajectory of a Key Institution: Characters and Political Changes in the European Council's History
- Taking Decision: Leadership and Consensus Building in the European Council
- Interinstitutional Relations: The European Council and the European Commission
- Managing the Economic and Financial Crisis: The European Council as 'gouvernement économique'?
- Managing Foreign Policy Crises: Assessing the Performance of the European Council and the Foreign Affairs Council

For detailed reports and pictures, please visit <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/events/kick-off-conference/>.

Roundtable Discussions

A European Topic debated across Europe

SUMMIT has so far organised roundtable discussions in:

Istanbul, Maastricht, Helsinki, Berlin, Cologne, Vienna, Paris, Prague, Rome and Vilnius.



Among the speakers were former national representatives and policy advisers, like Eikka Kosonen in Helsinki, politicians like the former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta and the Member of the European Parliament Johannes Voggenhuber, students of European Politics, like Alina Thieme from the University of Cologne, administrative staff from the German Federal Foreign Office and leading academics. The heterogeneous constellation of speakers allowed for lively debates, new perspectives and an interested and committed audience.

For detailed reports and pictures, please visit <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/events/roundtables/>.

Results and Material

In order to provide the audience with useful information to engage in a lively debate, specific dossiers were compiled and distributed for several roundtables. They can be accessed via <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/topics-and-material/dossiers/>.

Upcoming Events:

[Roundtable in Bratislava, 03.06.2016](#)

Topic and speakers tba on the project's webpage

[Roundtable in Bruges, autumn](#)

More details tba on the project's webpage

[Roundtable in Natolin, autumn 2016](#)

More details tba on the project's webpage

Dissemination Conference

At the start of 2017, the project will be concluded by a dissemination conference. The objective will be to present and share results and new insights as well as research and teaching materials and techniques.

More details will soon be announced on the project's webpage and will be available in the next newsletter.

Deliverables

Link List and Further Readings

SUMMIT provides information on webpages and readings useful for studying the European Council. The lists will constantly be updated and is available at <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/topics-and-material/>.

Quiz Game (forthcoming)

An online quiz game, comprising 30 questions in four languages, will provide an opportunity to independently test and improve one's knowledge on the European Council. The Quiz Game will be uploaded during June and will contain explanations, further readings and links. It will be available at <http://www.summit.uni-koeln.de/de/topics-and-material/quiz-game/>.

Webcasts (forthcoming)

After conducting several expert interviews and identifying research and information gaps, SUMMIT will now start producing online learning modules. Using video material, graphs and pictures, the webcasts will serve as vivid illustrations of relevant topics. The webcasts will be accessible at the project's webpage from summer 2016 on. After the end of the project's lifetime, they will be available via the website of the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance de l'Europe at cvce.eu.

Recent Publications

European Parliamentary Research Service: European Council and Crisis Management, In-depth Analysis



Written by Suzana Elena Anghel, Ralf Drachenberg and Stanislas de Finance (2016)

Free download:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/573283/EPRS_IDA\(2016\)573283_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2016/573283/EPRS_IDA(2016)573283_EN.pdf)

Jahrbuch der Europäischen Integration: Europäischer Rat.



Written by David Schäfer and Wolfgang Wessels, in: Werner Weidenfeld and Wolfgang Wessels (Hg.) (2015): Jahrbuch der Europäischen Integration. Nomos. Bonn. pp. 75-84.

Europa von A - Z: Europäischer Rat



Written by Maria Schäfer and Wolfgang Wessels (2016), published in: Werner Weidenfeld and Wolfgang Wessels (Hg.): Europa von A bis Z. Nomos. Bonn. pp. 224-229

Useful Links

EU Bookshop

EU Bookshop is an online bookshop, library and archive of publications dating back to 1952. It contains 100,000 titles and 190,000 corresponding electronic versions (PDFs, e books, CD ROMs, DVDs, etc.) in more than 50 languages, including the 24 official languages of the EU.

To obtain a hardcopy of certain titles, you may have to pay a small fee.

PDF and e-book versions are free of charge:

<https://bookshop.europa.eu/en/home/>

European Council Bibliography and Library

The Council of the European Union runs a bibliography containing a collection of literature concerning the European Council, the Council of the European Union and the Council General Secretariat. It aims at providing 'a picture of how these institutions have been studied during the last 50 years':

http://ec.europa.eu/eclas/F?func=find-a-o&local_base=BIB

Moreover the European Council and the Council run a library which can also be accessed by students and researchers upon request. The library team can prepare lists of references related to their field of interest, if it matches one of the specialised areas of the Council library collection: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/library/>

Euro Comment

At www.eurocomment.eu/ Peter Ludlow has for 14 years been publishing electronic publications on every meeting of the European Council and the Euro Council. The publications comprise pre-summit briefings, preliminary evaluations, quarterly commentaries and occasional essays.

Post-Summit Analyses

At <http://www.emmanouilidis.eu/publications/analyses-studies.php> Janis Emmanouilidis publishes post-summit analyses.

IMPRINT

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