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CONFERENCE: EUROPE DAY – WHAT EUROPE UNION GAVE AND TOOK

Vít Rouč*

On May 6, 2014, the College of International and Public Relations Prague had the opportunity to host the 20th Celebration meeting on Europe Day with subtitle “*What Europe Union gave and took*“. The meeting took place in the rooms of the European house and the importance of the whole action was supported by the patronage of **Štefan Füle**, Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy. On the following day the 8th International Science Conference took place in the premises of the College of International and Public Relations Prague, with essentially the same programme. Both internal and external pedagogues and students participated at the Conference.

The main objective of the meeting and the conference was to debate both positive and negative sides of the membership of the Czech Republic in the EU from various aspects. The official languages of the Conference were Czech and Slovak.

The welcoming speech delivered by the rector of the College of International and Public Relations Prague doc. Ing. **Judita Štouračová**, CSc. was followed by the speech of the first vice-chairman of the Senate Chamber of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, PaedDr. **Alena Gajdušková**, State Secretary for European Affairs Ing. **Tomáš Prouza**, MBA, Deputy of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ing. **Martin Tlapa**, MBA, as well as the Chief of Representation of the European Committee in the Czech Republic, Ing. **Jan Michal**. Speeches fitted in the main theme of the conference and its main target, i.e. to evaluate both (the most) positive and negative aspects of the membership of the Czech Republic in the EU during last decade. The most important positives were the stabilisation in the system of the international relations, more intensive activity in social and cultural European community, positives of the economical development, free movement of persons, goods and services, for example.

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Negative sides were a bad monetary policy related to the use of European development funds, unconstructive criticality and the idea in the part of population of a very small benefit from the side of the EU, etc.

Other speeches presented in the meeting and during the conference may be divided into some specific areas. These areas penetrated one another and contained more information than it is possible to inform about in our short review. Vice-rector of the College of International and Public Relations Prague prof. PhDr. **Oskar Krejčí**, CSc. started a political and international part with the theme „*The European Union and Russia*“. In the context of the actual development of the Ukraine he demonstrated a very complicated development of the relations of Europe/the EU and Russia both in the contemporary era and during the historical development as well.

Rector Emeritus of the College of International and Public Relations Prague, doc. Ing. **Antonín Peltrám**, CSc., opened the economic part with the lecture „*What did the EU offer to the Czech Republic*“. Ing. **Květoslava Kořínková**, CSc. continued in this theme with her lecture on „*Public support to the EU transformation changes and the economic growth in the Czech Republic*“. PhDr. **Jana Marková**, Ph.D. continued in the economic part of the conference with her presentation about the influence of the EU on the Czech Republic, entitled „*Decade membership of the Czech Republic in the EU from the view of intelligent growth*“, and Ing. **Hana Havlová** followed with the paper „*Customs union of the EU – Turkey: implication for the Czech Republic*“. The next two lectures focused not only on economic questions – Ing. **Jiří Dušek**, Ph.D. delivered his paper on the „*Rate of corruption in the Czech Republic ten years after its entering the EU*“, and PhDr. **Blanka Holigová** spoke about the „*Deficiency of the European integration from the view of Great Britain*“.

Combination of the diplomacy problems and connected legal effects was presented in the lectures of Mgr. **Petra Petříková** „*Diplomatic and consular protection in the EU*“ and of PhDr. **Erik Pajtinka**, Ph.D. „*European service for exterior activity – opportunities and risks for the national diplomacy services of member states of the EU*“.

The last part of the themes included lectures about legal and human rights problems. JUDr. Ing. **Anna Ďurfina**, Ph.D. described „*Basic changes in a legal system of Slovakia after entering the EU*“. Mgr. JUDr. **Martin Vlha**, Ph.D., described „*European arresting order*“ and PhDr. **Tatiana Tökölyová**, Ph.D., question of „*The view of protection of the human rights in the EU as one of the benefit of the membership of the Slovak Republic in the EU*“.

Last but not least, vice-rector of the College of International and Public Relations Prague PhDr. **František Pertl** thanked the participants for their interesting lectures and the discussion. He invited those present at the conference to take part also in the future meeting in May 2015.