

EYE



ON THE EU

Profiling  
Personalities and  
Developments  
Within the  
European Union

**T**he Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg, is often confused with the European Community, and the judgments of its European Court of Human Rights are frequently credited to (or blamed on) those of the EU's European Court of Justice, in Luxembourg. In fact, these bodies are totally distinct, though the confusion is perhaps compounded by the fact that all of the EU's 15 member states are included among the now 40 members of the Council of Europe (CE).

Not only are the two bodies distinct, but there is a fairly clear-cut division between

their fields of responsibility, the CE restricting itself mainly to cultural affairs, and crucially, human rights defined in the widest sense. Another big difference between the organizations is that, whereas decisions by the EU are binding on its members, the CE adopts conventions and protocols to which its members are invited to adhere but are not required to do so.

Over the years there has been very little rivalry between the organizations, which see themselves as complementary rather than competitive. Now, however, there is one field in which the EU may be able to learn some

useful lessons from the CE's recent experience.

In the years since the end of the cold war, some 16 states in Central and Eastern Europe have been admitted to membership of the CE. All of them were required to give explicit undertakings concerning the protection of human rights and respect for the treatment of minorities. It was made clear that the rump of Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) would not be a welcome candidate, and the membership of several others, notably Russia, Ukraine, and Croatia, was delayed because of doubts about the credibility of their undertakings.

For the same reason, Belarus is still being kept out, four years after it applied, while Bosnia-Herzegovina, Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan have been granted only "special guest" status, pending firmer evidence of their democratic credentials.

It is clear that these countries crave CE membership partly as a certificate of their democratic respectability and acceptance within the European mainstream. At least, some of them clearly see the CE as a sort of antechamber, believing that if they can prove themselves as reliable and constructive members it will improve their chances of being accepted later into the more exclusive European Union.

For Russia and Ukraine, membership may be seen as some sort of compensation for their exclusion—for the foreseeable future—from both the EU and NATO. President Yeltsin, who attended last month's CE summit (along

with Tony Blair, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, and other leaders) in Strasbourg, clearly attaches great importance to the CE. In order to gain admission, he promised to secure the abolition of the death penalty in Russia, in accordance with one of the CE's conventions.

Yeltsin has not yet succeeded in persuading the Russian Duma to do this, but he has put a stop to all executions. There were 140 of these in the Russian Federation in 1996, but not a single one in 1997, except for a notorious public execution in Chechnya, carried out against the wishes of the Russian authorities. In the Ukraine, too, which gave the same undertaking, executions fell from 167 in 1996 to none in 1997.

The CE regards the improvement of human rights in Eastern Europe, and in particular the treatment of minorities, as one of the major successes of its enlargement. Yet there has been some backsliding. The Slovak government of Vladimir Meciar, admitted as a successor state to Czechoslovakia, has not kept to its undertakings, and nor has President Franjo Tudjman in Croatia. It is partly for this reason that Slovakia is now regarded as a very doubtful candidate for early EU membership, while the neighboring Czech Republic is strongly tipped to be one of the first candidates for admission.

There are other important reasons for CE membership. But as a probationary period before entry to the EU, it certainly has its uses.

—Dick Leonard

## Markgraaf®

**Trademark rights in most countries are usually established by the first party to REGISTER a mark. Rely on your trademark use alone overseas and you could lose your mark! That is why...**

**When it is time to export your trademarks abroad, it is time for Markgraaf International.**

A one-stop source for all of your international trademark needs. . . . Our century-old network of worldwide legal experts permits us to offer you our comprehensive trademark protection services.

Markgraaf International is not a law firm. It is a company of international trademark consultants who assist U.S. businesses in finding competent, reasonably priced trademark legal services in all countries of interest, and then in meeting the specific cultural, language, and legal requirements of each country for those services. Please call, fax or write to us if you would like a brochure or estimates regarding search or filing costs in any specific countries.

Markgraaf International, Inc.  
715 Lake Street, Suite 220 • Oak Park, Illinois 60301-1423 U.S.A.  
Telephone (708) 383-8801 • Fax (708) 383-8897  
E-mail: trademark@markgraaf-intl.com

# Letter from the Editor

**W**hile most of the attention at the moment in Brussels is focused on the introduction of the new single currency, the euro, and enlarging the European Union to include new members, it is important to point out that the EU countries are working together to form a coherent foreign policy. As Lionel Barber reports from Brussels, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) of the European Union has a great asset: money. "In 1995, the EU gave Russia \$1.5 billion to assist the transition to democracy, seven times as much as the US. EU humanitarian aid in 1996 was almost \$2 billion, one-third more than the US. The Europeans are also outspending the Americans in Central and Eastern Europe."



Europe's emerging foreign policy.

*EUROPE* looks at EU policy toward Latin America, the Mediterranean and Africa, and Asia in our special report on "Europe's Emerging Foreign Policy." The European Union is forming a strong presence in Latin America. As Axel Krause reports from Paris, "Surprisingly some of the renewed European interest in Latin America is coming from Eastern Europe and Nordic countries." From Fiat to France Telecom to Airbus to Volkswagen, European firms are finding new markets throughout

Latin America.

David Lennon, writing from London, says the Mediterranean region and Africa are areas "that can no longer be ignored." He goes on to relate the large amount of trade that has developed between the EU and the Mediterranean countries stating that "the EU is the Mediterranean countries' chief economic and trading partner."

"The European Union is rediscovering East Asia," writes Lionel Barber, who has just returned from Thailand and Hong Kong. While "trade continues to be the crux of the relationship between the EU and Asia" other important contacts in the political field are growing.

Samantha McArthur, based in Lisbon, discusses how Portugal's popular leader is "wagering his political reputation on Portugal joining EMU in the first wave of countries."

South Carolina and Europe? The two don't immediately seem to go together but as Fred Monk, the chief business correspondent of the *State*, South Carolina's largest newspaper, argues, "South Carolina's ties with European countries run deep and are getting deeper." From BMW to smaller EU firms, Monk points out the dramatic increase in trade between this beautiful southern state and Europe.

Expo '98, is coming to Lisbon. *EUROPE* tells you how to enjoy Expo '98, which begins next May. How about whale watching in the Azores? We explore these enchanting Portuguese islands for our readers contemplating a winter getaway.

*Robert J. Guttman*  
Robert J. Guttman  
Editor-in-Chief

# EUROPE

## Publisher

Søren Søndergaard

## Editor-in-Chief

Robert J. Guttman

## General Manager

Anne Depigny

## Managing Editor

Peter Gwin

## Editorial Assistant

Susan J. Burdin

## Contributing Editors

**ATHENS:** Kerin Hope

**BERLIN:** Wanda Menke-Glickert

**BRUSSELS:** Lionel Barber, Bruce Barnard, Dick

Leonard, Martin Walker

**COPENHAGEN:** Leif Beck Fallesen

**DUBLIN:** Mike Burns

**THE HAGUE:** Roel Janssen

**HELSINKI:** Thomas Romantschuk

**LISBON:** Samantha McArthur

**LONDON:** David Lennon

**LUXEMBOURG:** Alan Osborn

**MADRID:** Benjamin Jones

**PARIS:** Axel Krause, Ester Laushway

**ROME:** Niccolò d'Aquino

**STOCKHOLM:** Ariane Sains

**VIENNA:** Reginald H. Benisch

**WASHINGTON, DC:** Reginald Dale, Amy Kaslow

## Design

The Magazine Group, Inc./Glenn Pierce

## Intern

Gwenn Belbéoch

## Advertising Information

Fran Grega tel. (410) 897-0297 fax (410) 897-0298

*EUROPE, Magazine of the European Union* (ISSN 0191-4545), is published by the Delegation of the European Commission, 2300 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037. © The European Commission, 1997. The magazine encourages reproduction of its contents, but any such reproduction without permission is prohibited. *EUROPE*, published 10 times per year, is available by subscription for \$19.95 per year; \$34.95 for 2 years; \$46.95 for three years. Add \$10.00 to non-U.S. subscriptions for postage and handling. Student rate (with proof of enrollment): \$14.95 per year; \$25.95 for 2 years; \$35.95 for 3 years. Bulk rate also available. **Editorial, permissions, advertising, and circulation offices:** 2300 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037; Telephone (202) 862-9555. Available in microform from UMI, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106; (313) 761-4700

**World Wide Web:** [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org)

**Newsstand distribution:** Eastern News  
1-800-221-3148

**Subscriber services:** 1-800-627-7961.

(In Canada call 303-678-0439.)

Periodicals class postage paid at Washington, DC and additional entry.

**Postmaster:** Please send change of address forms to *EUROPE*, P.O. Box 55935, Boulder, CO 80328-5935.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

The magazine is a forum for discussion, and therefore its contents do not necessarily reflect the views of European Union institutions or of the member states.

Reuters has contributed to news reports in this issue of *EUROPE*.