

# ECSA WORLD - NEWS

Editor **Enrique Banús** Writing and Design **Carla Rabell**

## ECSA World

### Legal Address:

c/o Ryckvelde vzw,  
beweging voor Europees  
burgerschap

Sint-Baafskerkstraat  
7/0001 BE-8200

Sint-Andries, Brugge.

Tel: + 32 (0)50 35 27 20

Fax: + 32 (0)50 37 11 01

[www.ecsaworld.eu](http://www.ecsaworld.eu)

[ecsaworld@gmail.com](mailto:ecsaworld@gmail.com)

(only this e-mail address is  
in use)

*Dear Presidents, dear colleagues, dear friends,*

*Traditionally, the second half of the year is full with activities. We hope the newsletter will be a perfect mirror for all your efforts to make the European reality visible, with its fortresses (but not as a fortress!) and weaknesses, to present the panorama how the universities are a key place for the informed debate.*

*We also hope to accept new members in this second half of the year.*

*The newsletter is proud to present an article based again on a long interview related to our own history, and we hope we will be able also in the next months to continue on this path, exploring the history of ECSA, which is a relevant part of the history of the European Studies.*

*Please, help us with your contributions and information.*

*Best regards,  
Enrique Banús*

## ECSA Israel presented the panel “Trade Aspects of the European Neighborhood Policy”

The Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration (ECSA Israel), The Hartog School of Government and Policy, the Frances Brody Institute for Applied Diplomacy and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organized the panel on “Trade Aspects of the European Neighbourhood Policy”, that took place on the 14th of June 2015 at Tel Aviv University (Israel).

Amongst the panellists they were the two co-presidents of ECSA Israel: Prof. Alfred Tovias (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) who presented "The New Open Sky Agreement Israel-EU as an Example of Deep Integration" and Dr. Tal Sadeh (Tel Aviv University).

Also participated: Dr. Elisabeth Johansson-Nogués (Barcelona Institute of International Studies, Spain) with the paper "The ENP review: reforming a region in flames?" and Mr. Dan Catarivas (head of International Trade and International Relations, Manufacturers Association of Israel) who talked about "The Private Sector Perspective – What's in it for us?".

Information by ECSA Israel

# The history of ECSA World's project

As we informed in the last ECSA World-News issue, in July 2015 ECSA World's president Enrique Banús had occasion to maintain long interviews with Jacqueline Lastenouse and Belén Bernaldo de Quirós, the two civil servants who were for a long time responsible in the Commission for the contact to the universities and therefore also for ECSA. These interviews are part of the project about "the Origins and History of ECSA". The newsletter is publishing a résumé with the main topics, and in the future the whole interviews will be transcribed.

Interview to

## Belén Bernaldo de Quirós

Belén Bernaldo de Quirós started working for the European Commission in 1987. On 1994 she worked for the Commissioner Marcelino Oreja. Upon finishing her work at the Cabinet (shortly before the resignation of the Commission in 1999) she moved to the Directorate General that was responsible for the contacts to the world of higher education, including the Jean Monnet professors and ECSAs.

There were very difficult years for the Commission following the fall of the Commission headed by Jacques Santer on March 15, 1999. Much more transparency, accountability and a clear legal basis were then required for all actions supported by the European Commission. The alternative being to cease them. In this context, the General Director, Mr Spyros Pappas, entrusted Belén Bernaldo de Quirós to find the right approaches to aligning the Jean Monnet Action with the Commission's legal and financial requirements. Until then, the support to the Jean Monnet Action and ECSA Associations was based solely on article 235 of the Treaty (in the version of those years), that was foreseen for actions undertaken by initiative of the Commission itself.

In this context, Belén Bernaldo de Quirós started by expressing her vision about the future of the Jean Monnet Action and the ECSA's by writing a report on this subject. In 2000, she became responsible for the Jean Monnet Action. Even if the pressure on the European Commission was strong, the Director General Nikolaus Van der Pas, underlined the great importance that he attached to maintaining the Jean Monnet and ECSA networks alive, that he considered vital to explain the European Integration process to the EU citizens. In order to do so, he acknowledged that it was necessary to adapt the entire Jean Monnet Action to the new "rules of the game" as actions based on

article 235 had to be abandoned. Therefore, appropriate legal and financial procedures had to be identified and put in place for continuing and strengthening the support to university professors and Associations.



Belén says: "Nikolaus Van der Pas was the best Director General possible, a person who had great confidence in the quality and usefulness of the work provided by the ECSA network and the Jean Monnet professors, but also was absolutely determined to support them in the right way, by putting in place good and sound management and by making every effort in order to guarantee their sustainability". The option given by the Financial Control to Nikolaus Van der Pas was rather simple: the Action had to be aligned with the rules or it would disappear. And indeed, the head of the budgetary unit in the Education and Culture Directorate General was ready to this final solution and therefore introduced in 2000 a liquidation plan to be finalized in 2005.

Thanks to the endless quality work and commitment of a very few, the Action survived. To these ends two subsequent legal bases in 2004 and 2006 were necessary, to finally transform the Action into an EU programme as solid and relevant as Leonardo, Comenius or Erasmus.

Nowadays, the Jean Monnet Programme has become again an action within the Erasmus+ Programme which claims “that has brought all university projects together”.

Belén says, “My mission to save and strengthen the Jean Monnet Action was accomplished and well beyond by the opening of the programme to universities world-wide. The difference was striking between 2000 and 2011. In 2000 there was nothing in place: no budget, even for the European University Council that would not survive, when the situation was so tight that Director General Van der Pas had to give his word personally to the Director General of the Financial Control that this Council would be regulated in order to get the salaries paid of colleagues working there for a few more months. 2000, was a time of void, with nothing stable implemented: neither budget nor legal basis. It was a difficult period but finally rewarding, when everything had to be reformed to preserve the Chairs, the Modules, the Centers of Excellence, and also the University Council which had to be transformed into a BAT (Bureau d’Assistance Technique).

Anyhow, saving the Action and the ECSA’s was only the initial step. Between 2000 and 2006, it took place the substantial part of the reform to strengthen both the Jean Monnet Action and the ECSAs and to reach a critical mass to transform them into an EU programme.” Indeed, the rescue plan was in 2000 the main challenge for the unit directed by Belén Bernaldo de Quirós. In this context, she found essential support in Professor Marc Maresceau, president at the time of ECSA World, who also had the job to explain to the ECSAs the need for important changes, which take - for example- that they could no longer be directly funded, but only through participation in the "call for applications" of the Jean Monnet Programme. "With Marc [Maresceau] we were constantly discussing on how to preserve everything”. “After Marc, the leading role of José María Gil-Robles, President of the European University Council and the endless support from Iñigo Mendez de Vigo and the establishment of a Group of Friends of the Jean Monnet Action in the European Parliament were instrumental to give a new political impetus to the programme”. It is worth

noting that the Jean Monnet programme encompasses as well the support to well-known designated institutions such as the College of Europe, the European University Institute, CIFE and others.

Belén underlines the role of the ECSAs, currently chaired by Enrique Banús, in those difficult years and also the invaluable cooperation of collaborators within the team of the European University Council: Beatrice Miège and Luciano di Fonzo.

From her point of view, the ECSA Associations have been somehow the guarantors of the continuity of the relation with and between universities. She says: “The existence of the world-wide ECSA Associations played a key role while obtaining the necessary hierarchical agreements to internationalize the Jean Monnet Action. I opened it to the world in 2000 after succeeding in persuading those that were not particularly in favor of the continuation of Jean Monnet, or ECSA. As we were in a critical situation, I only obtained a transitional period and it was firmly stated: ‘Well, if this goes wrong, it's the end’ and, due to lack of funds, a pause of one year in the regular funding to projects coming from the Member States had to be made. It was a total bet not knowing for sure whether the world would be interested in the Jean Monnet Actions or even in spreading the number of ECSA Associations. Fortunately, the interest was there and it was a success, thanks also to the multiplier effect of the ECSA’s. Consequently, we moved from 3 Chairs outside the European Union to Chairs, Modules and Centers of Excellence in 73 countries in 2011, along with many more ECSA associations implanted all over, teaching the European integration model as a unique model of regional development. Their vitality helped immensely to spreading the programme.”

Belén Bernaldo de Quirós worked as head of the Jean Monnet Unit till mid-2011. In those years many other improvements were introduced, such as ambitious Jean Monnet and ECSA Conferences gathering academia, political representatives at the highest level and renowned journalists to analyze together the European Integration process and its developments; therefore, accompanying from an academic perspective the EU decision making process. The Jean Monnet Prize also was created and the role of University Council was redefined. Notably, the conferences devoted to the European Constitution or those to the Intercultural Dialogue were a milestone for the programme, but this is another story. . .

# ECSA World Treasurer Juan Mascareñas has been awarded by the Institute for Financial Studies (IEF)

On the 26th of October will take place in Barcelona (Spain) the VIII edition of the Institute for Financial Studies (IEF) awards for Financial Excellence in recognition of academic and professional career, financial training and involvement in divulgation, as well as transparency in communication.



Among the winners of the 2015 edition there is the ECSA World Treasurer Juan Mascareñas, who will receive the award for his Academic Career with all the university but also information activities in the field of Corporate Finance.

Mascareñas, who is Professor for Financial Economics at the Complutense University of Madrid (UCM), is treasurer of the association since 2011.

Information by ECSA Spain

## The Central America and Caribbean Association of European Studies and Integration presented the panel “The influence of Europe in the training of the Central America culture”

The session, organized by ECSA/ACC (Central America and Caribbean Association of European Studies and Integration), the association presided over Prof. Arnaldo Rubio, took place last 30th of September at UNED (Distance University of Costa Rica). The lecturer was Prof. Victor Valembois.

Valembois graduated in Romance Philology from the University of Leuven (Belgium). He is Doctor of Philology from the

Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) and worked as an attaché in the Embassy of Belgium between 1984 and 1997.

Valembois has more than one hundred publications in academic journals of Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Spain, Puerto Rico, Russia and Belgium.

Information by ECSA/ACC

### Two comments:

*“Te felicito por tu contribución a la creación de Ecsa-ACC que estimo pasará a la historia de Ecsa-Mundial, como asimismo tu desempeño como Presidente de esta organización”*

- *Iris Vitinni*

*“Merci, Enrique, como siempre, muy interesante lo que pasa en el mundo de las ECSA's”*

- *Jacqueline Lastenouse*