

EDITORIAL

Liebe Leserinnen
und Leser der DA News!



Zehn Jahre nach der großen Reform der Diplomatischen Akademie 1996 wurde heuer ein wichtiger Schritt zur rechtlichen Absicherung des akademischen Standards der DA gesetzt.

Mit der DAK-Gesetz-Novelle 2006 wird das vor 10 Jahren gemeinsam mit der Universität Wien eingerichtete Master-Programm in die neue Struktur der europäischen Universitätslandschaft eingegliedert und als postgraduales Studienprogramm im Sinne des Bologna-Systems anerkannt. Die Debatte im Nationalrat zeigte einhellige Unterstützung dieses wichtigen Anliegens der Akademie durch alle politischen Parteien.

Für die Regierung sprach Staatssekretär Hans Winkler, selbst ein Absolvent der DA, was uns mit besonderem Stolz erfüllt. In einer sehr persönlich gehaltenen Erklärung betonte Hans Winkler, dass die DA 1964 gegründet wurde, „um Leuten wie mir, die aus nicht sehr reichen und privilegierten Verhältnissen kommen, die Möglichkeit zu geben, einen Beruf zu ergreifen, der jahrhundertlang immer als ein Beruf der Privilegierten angesehen wurde. Dafür bin ich auch heute noch der Diplomatischen Akademie wirklich sehr dankbar“. Hans Winkler hat damit vielen Absolventinnen und Absolventen aus dem Herzen gesprochen.

Seine Worte sind Aufforderung und Ermunterung, den erfolgreichen Weg der DA in diesem Sinne fortzusetzen. Der Absolventen-Club der DA wird weiterhin das Seine dazu beitragen.

*Gerhard Reiweger, 20. DLG
Präsident des ClubDA*

Vom EU-Lateinamerika-Gipfel zur DA



v.l.n.r.: Peter Stania, Vicente Fox Quesada, Jiří Gruša

Am 11. Mai 2006 hielt der mexikanische Präsident Vicente Fox Quesada an der Diplomatischen Akademie einen Vortrag

über „2000–2006: Mexico's Democratic Transition and Foreign Policy“.

Absolvent aus Haft entlassen

Kamal Sayid Qadir, österreichischer Staatsbürger kurdischer Herkunft und Absolvent der Diplomatischen Akademie, ist am 3. April 2006 aus der irakischen Haft entlassen worden, nachdem er aufgrund regierungskritischer Publikationen am 26. Oktober 2005 wegen „Entehrung der kurdischen Führung und ihres Kampfes“ im Nordirak verhaftet und verurteilt worden war. Laut Amnesty International entsprach das Gerichtsverfahren nicht den internationalen Standards. Auch der Direktor der Diplomatischen Akademie, Botschafter Jiří Gruša, wandte sich an

Präsident Barzani und forderte Qadirs Freilassung: “[...] Human Rights not only carry a general obligation for all of us, they are also a task for each individual. And in those places where nations are fighting for their freedom, they are also struggling for a kind of communicative diversity. In this sense Kamal Sayid Qadir was not only a fine graduate of our institute, but also an important member of the successful struggle for the freedom of the Kurds [...] I appeal to you most urgently to release Kamal Sayid Qadir in the name of the future of your country.”

GENERALVERSAMMLUNG DES CLUB DA

**am Freitag, dem 30. Juni 2006,
in der Diplomatischen Akademie Wien**

13.00 Mittagessen

14.00 Beginn der Sitzung

Alle Club-Mitglieder sind herzlich eingeladen!

Please join us for this year's
International Alumni Meeting
on **June 30 and July 1, 2006**

Programme

Friday, June 30, 2006

- 17.00** Registration
17.30 Welcome address:
Jiří Gruša, Director of the DA
Gerhard Reiweger,
President of Club DA
Festsaal, DA
Keynote speech:
A Look Back on
Austria's Presidency of the EU
State Secretary Hans Winkler
Festsaal, DA
19.00 Departure by bus from the
DA to the Heurigen
19.30 Heuriger Eischer's Kronen-
stüberl Neustift am Walde 87,
1190 Wien

Samstag, Juli 1, 2006

- 09.30** Abfahrt mit Bussen von der DA
zum Kaiserlichen Festschloss
Hof
11.00 Führung durch das Festschloss
Hof
12.30 Mittagessen im Restaurant
Meierhof
14.30 Freie Besichtigung der barocken
Gartenanlage und des Meierhofs
15.30 Rückfahrt zur DA
19.00 Sommerfest der Diplomatischen
Akademie Wien

Registration info:
club@da-vienna.ac.at

Luxembourg

Un groupe d'environ 30 étudiants de l'Académie Diplomatique a participé au voyage à Luxembourg. Nous y avons obtenu une introduction au monde d'un diplomate, ayant été reçu par l'Ambassadeur autrichien à Luxembourg, Monsieur Walter Hagg, autant que le Secrétaire général luxembourgeois, Monsieur Georges Santer, anciens élèves de l'Académie. Pour beaucoup d'entre nous, c'était la première occasion de rencontre de tels diplomates et la première fois que nous avons eu la chance d'être à l'intérieur d'une résidence officielle, ce qui a rendu le voyage particulièrement intéressant. Nous avons d'ailleurs visité la Cour européenne de Justice et la Banque européenne d'Investissement afin de mieux connaître ces deux institutions.

Andrew Jackson, DLG

Taking music lessons at the Sound of Europe Conference in Salzburg



I was one of ten students from the DA who had the opportunity to attend the Sound of Europe Conference in late January of this year in Salzburg, the event that marked the beginning of Austria's Council presidency. It was, I may safely say, an invaluable experience. Charged with the task of note-taking during the panel discussions (to appear in the semantic network of ars electronica) and the working luncheons (to appear in the final report of the conference organisers) we were, literally, able to record the tones that were played or sung.

Interestingly, persons from the political domain were generally playing their instruments in the orchestra, those from academia were singing genuinely in the choir and a few artists were giving vocal soli. Equally interesting was the fact that both female instrumentalists and vocalists seemed to be less important for the sound of Europe, for they were heavily under-represented. And, even though I strongly believe in the value of experience, one can find more young blood in the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra than could be observed in the European agglomeration of musicians. (Whoops! Sorry, the young people were too busy taking notes!) Hence it is not surprising that my symphony contains predominantly classic ("Latin as a compulsory first language for all European pupils") and conservative ("the welfare state must be cut down") themes. Just a few lines by the soloists were somewhat challenging ("so far, all that was said was rather 'fad'"). So, what is the lesson that I learned in Salzburg? The sound of Europe in its current state is an old sound, played and sung by the same musicians over and over again. These musicians are trained to play the sound of Europe but, most cer-

tainly, they do not live it! If it were really in the interest of the rotating conductors to secure the future of the sound of Europe, they would rejuvenate their musicians and let the future be decided by those who will be affected by it! **Clara Nobbe, DLG**

Club DA scholarship

Invited to take part in the program of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, the feelings prior to my arrival were those of excitement, curiosity but most of all – anxiety!

Coming from the Ukraine with an educational background different from that of the Academy, I was relieved to find that the atmosphere which surrounded me here was one of sincerity and friendliness. Moreover, the international and multicultural/multilingual environment quickly enabled me to see the benefits of the programs which the Academy has so successfully managed to organize. The scholarship granted to me was yet another example of the special quality of the "DA family" which includes a commitment by DA graduates to help the students of this institution.

Christina Hayovyshyn, SPIS

James Rooke, former lecturer at the DA, has published his memoirs "Trade and the Diplomat". Available at Shakespeare and Company in Vienna for EUR 15,-.

Bruxelles

Le samedi 3 décembre, les étudiants de l'Académie diplomatique se sont rendus à Bruxelles pour leur voyage d'étude annuel auprès des institutions européennes. Nous y avons passé six jours pleins d'activités, y compris des visites au Parlement européen, à la Commission, à la Représentation autrichienne ainsi qu'à l'OTAN. Au Parlement européen nous avons eu la chance d'entendre le député autrichien Hannes Swoboda et d'assister à une séance au sujet du rôle de la jeunesse en Europe. **Andrew Jackson, DLG**



DELF/DALF

Les examens du DELF et DALF ont eu lieu au mois de février, et les étudiants de l'Académie diplomatique ont excellé, atteignant un taux de réussite de 100%.

The Energy Gamble Conference

The conference "Securing the Future Mix of Energy" that took place on the 27th of March was a great success. This project undertaken by the



Director Gruša opening the conference

Diplomatic Academy Student Initiative and Karin Kneissl, tutor at the Academy, brought together leading figures in the energy field to discuss what is currently an important and controversial topic. Attendees included CEOs of major energy companies, representatives of OPEC, the EU and international financial institutions.

The debate was centred on issues of energy supply and security, alternative sources of energy, climate change and the dilemmas faced by developing countries. One of the highlights of the afternoon was a workshop conducted by Jurien Westerhof of Greenpeace. Participants of this group were given the challenge to plan and survive in a micro-environment given very limited energy resources. **Bethan Thompson, DLG**

Climbing the Great Wall and simulating the UN in China



Discussing issues of international scope and importance in lively and enthusiastic debates, coupled with exciting social events like climbing the Great Wall or catching a glimpse of the Mao cult at Tiananmen Square made for a very unique conference experience. The 2006 conference in Beijing was WorldMUN's first foray into the Far East. It attracted more than 1,400 students from all over the globe, some of whom had to travel for almost forty hours to reach Beijing, and has seen the first ever participation of a DA delegation at a conference of this kind.

The DA group had a very popular stall in Austria's "Global Village" exhibition and not Australia's as some thought!! The likes of Mozart and Lippizanner horses were presented, and some visitors even dared to have a go at Viennese waltz!

Head delegate for the DA was Laura Harbidge from SPIS, who represented Eritrea together with Johannah Bendall, Lucia Stocker (both DLG), Christina Hayovyschyn, Ana Maria Vila, Johanna

Weberhofer (all from SPIS), Nic Stefanuta and Agnes Biesiekierska (MAIS). Nicolae Stefanuta won one of the much coveted Diplomacy Awards – for a delegation of only 8 delegates this was an impressive achievement. And hearing the words "Diplomatic Academy of Vienna" in an auditorium of hundreds of international students and staff definitely made a lasting impression on us all.

WMUN (or any other MUN) is to be recommended to everyone with an avid interest in diplomacy, and it is hoped that the DA will be represented at MUNs in the future as well. And, one day, the former imperial buildings that now house the DA will see a DA-wide UN simulation that will hopefully be as lively as the debates we witnessed and influenced in April in China.

Johanna Weberhofer, SPIS

For more information on WMUN and MUN in general, please contact the delegation at: da06wmun@gmail.com

International Relations in Theory and Practice

It is not only the students of the DA Vienna who travel regularly to different destinations as part of their training in international relations, be it to EU institutions or bilateral relations with other academic institutions. We also regularly receive visitors.

In January students from the Diplomatic Academy Prague came for a short visit. The DA Prague is training young Czech diplomats and their trip to Vienna gave them an opportunity to not only learn more about Austria and the international organizations that are situated in Vienna, but also to meet some of the international students of the DA Vienna.

An annual exchange with first year students of Science Po Paris at Nancy has taken place since 2003. In this case, it is students that are at the beginning of their studies who take the trip as chance to learn more about the future opportunities for the time after their graduation. They visited not only the UNOV, OSCE and OPEC but also learned more about Austria and the EU.

The end of each visit was celebrated by a party with DA Vienna students, which provided opportunity to get to know each other and talk about our trip to Nancy in May. **Vera Fuchs, DLG**

Viennese Ball



f.l.t.r.: J. Constantinesco, B. Thompson, C. Rippinger, J. Barthoulot

The Hofburg in its full splendour for the Officer's Ball was certainly a sight to behold for a complete ball novice. The fabulous colours of military uniforms certainly added interest to the usual dark shades of male evening wear. I think we were all thankful for the waltz lessons that we took during the autumn term when the Blue Danube started to play. Even if we could not quite manage to glide across the dance floor like true professionals we definitely gave performances to make the DA proud! **Bethan Thompson, DLG**

DA Ball 2006



The DA ball committee

This group of students worked very hard to prepare everything necessary so we all could enjoy a wonderful Viennese-Oriental ball at the Academy on May 6. On behalf of the students of the Academy I would like to thank the members of the Ball Committee for their work with the organization of our wonderful ball. **Vera Fuchs, DLG**

Die RedakteurInnen der DA News



v.l.n.r.: Andrew Jackson, Vera Fuchs, Bethan Thompson, Laura Himsworth

IMPRESSUM

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EU-Ausbildungsleitertreffen und European Diplomatic Programme



The EDP Family Photo

Das von der österreichischen EU-Präsidenschaft organisierte Treffen der AusbildungsleiterInnen der Außenministerien aller EU-Mitgliedstaaten fand vom 18.–21. April 2006 in der DA statt. Wichtigstes Thema der Beratungen war die weitere Entwicklung des European

Diplomatic Programme, das heuer zum 6. Mal junge DiplomatInnen aus den EU-Mitgliedstaaten und den EU Institutionen durch ein gemeinsames Trainingsprogramm führte.

Das Krisenmanagement-Seminar des Programms wurde an der DA durchgeführt.

Promotion «Ernst Sucharipa»



Lilly Sucharipa with DA students

Les étudiants du DLG voudraient de nouveau remercier Madame Sucharipa de nous avoir aussi gentiment reçu à son appartement par reconnaissance pour notre classe qui porte le nom de son mari, l'ancien directeur de l'Académie Diplomatique, Ernst Sucharipa.

DA Annual Skiing Weekend

The skiing weekend in Lackenhof am Ötscher, Austria, was a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of Bernhard Perner, who coordinated with the Austrian Foreign Ministry to enable interested DA students from the MAIS, SPIS and DLG to enjoy a wonderful weekend on the slopes. In the 6th DA skiing competition, Bernhard Perner (A) took first Place in the men's competition ahead of Thomas Drack (A) and Marko Emersic (SLO). Veronica Laraway (GB) won in the women's, closely followed by Zuzana Adamekova (SK) and Carine Rippinger (L). Both Clemens Neunhöffer (A) and Lucia Stocker (A) received trophies for their success in the men's and women's snowboarding heats. DA Deputy Director Gerhard Reiweger presented the awards. Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Veronica Laraway, Bernhard Perner

At the end of the competition and a half day of skiing, the DA students trekked back up the mountain with sleds in hand. We enjoyed a relaxing award presentation evening with music and a Käsespätzle supper provided by the Austrian Foreign Ministry. The highlight for many was the journey home – a torchlit sledge ride back down the mountain.

Laura Himsworth, DLG