

Editorial

Dear Alumni,

For the second time in the history of the DA, we have the pleasure of welcoming a DA graduate at the helm of our "alma mater diplomatica". And it is a first that a former member of the Austrian government has taken on the task of directing the DA, which is a powerful compliment to the international standing of the Academy. We wish *Ambassador Hans Winkler* all the best and much success in the coming years.

As one of his very first actions as new director of the Academy, *Hans Winkler* signed a contract establishing an alumni office at the DA, which highlights the importance he assigns to the DA alumni network. Henceforth the work of *ClubDA*, the Academy's alumni association, will be complemented and actively supported by *Andreas Ehrmann*, who we are happy to welcome as the new DA alumni officer.

With his help we are about to implement two major *ClubDA* initiatives, which are, one, a relaunch of the *ClubDA* website and, two, the establishment of local alumni chapters. Both projects aim at reinforcing contacts among DA alumni living outside Vienna where *ClubDA* activities have been focused until now. In keeping with the international character of the DA alumni network, *ClubDA* needs to go global. To that purpose we shall provide more activities and events all around the world and a new internet platform for private and professional communication. Local chapters have already been established in Berlin, London, Munich and Vienna, with Brussels, Paris, Moscow, Warsaw and Washington D.C. to follow soon. Any initiatives by DA alumni who would like to create a *ClubDA* local chapter in their city are most welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Gerhard Reiweger

20th Diploma Course, President of *ClubDA*



HANS WINKLER NEW DIRECTOR OF THE DA

On April 1st 2009, Ambassador Hans Winkler took over as the new Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

After graduating from the University of Vienna's Law School in 1968, Hans Winkler attended the 5th diploma course of the DA. He joined the Austrian diplomatic service in 1970 and was posted to Berlin, Washington, DC, Belgrade and Cairo. He served as Permanent Representative of Austria to the Council of Europe 1992-96, became Legal Advisor in 1999 and Deputy Secretary General in 2002.

In 2005 he was appointed State Secretary for European and International Affairs, a position which he held until 2008.

BACK TO SCHOOL: DA GRADUATE HANS WINKLER ON HIS RETURN TO THE DA

Herr Direktor, for a couple of weeks you have been director of the Diplomatic Academy. You are also an alumnus of this institution (5th DLG). Do you remember your time as a student at the DA?

I remember very well my time at the DA and especially now all my memories are coming back. The attractive thing for me now as director of this institution is to compare the situation of almost 40 years ago with now – and to see that the Academy has retained many things. Especially as far as the spirit is concerned. Others have changed fundamentally. I see continuity on the one hand, and, at the same time, profound change. The interesting part of my job is to ensure continuity in times of rapid change.

Are you still in contact with some of your fellow students?

Of course! Many of my former colleagues entered the Foreign Service, and of course we have been in touch regularly for the last 40 years. It's a beautiful thing to keep in touch for such a long time!

What is the major task of the DA in the world of today?

The Diplomatic Academy continues to train young people for international jobs in the largest sense of the word and to develop skills needed in diplomacy. Of course, the diplomatic service is just one among many other possible career goals of DA graduates.

Another very important issue is to give students an international environment to live in – that is not training in the narrow sense, but part of the development of personality.

The DA has the advantage of being situated in a capital city where it is easy to make contact with the Diplomatic Corps, with the United Nations, with many other international organizations and with neighboring countries as well. I want to make use of all these advantages in order to offer the students not only good academic training, but also a vivid experience of international affairs, cultural amenities and a network of friends and colleagues. I think we should emphasize much more that the Academy has so much more to offer compared with others.

You are an experienced diplomat in contact with many young people who want to start an international career. What do you think is the most important quality, the most important virtue young people should have in order to succeed in an international environment?

Fortunately, we are getting rid of the old clichés of diplomats. Today a diplomat is a manager of international affairs, meaning not just relations between states. International affairs nowadays comprise global business and media contacts, cultural affairs, or simply contact

Visit our new website:
www.clubda-vienna.com

Markus Kornprobst

The DA's first Chairholder in Political Science and International Relations



Markus Kornprobst was appointed Resident Professor of International Relations at the Diplomatic Academy in January 2009. His background is a truly international: brought up in Germany, he studied at the University of Munich, received his MA from the University of Cape Town in 1999 and his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2005. Prior to joining the DA, he taught at University College London and the University of Oxford.

His fascination with international affairs characterizes *Markus Kornprobst's* academic approach and explains his aspirations for his work at the Diplomatic Academy. He wants to provide his students with a substantial academic grounding: consolidate their theoretical knowledge of world politics, familiarize them with methodological research and teach them how to write dissertations on complex issues. His team of research assistants become closely involved in his many projects, which currently include a publication on the EU's management of international crises, a study of US - North-Korean relations on the question of nuclear proliferation, and a book on Global Governance. In 2008, he published his much acclaimed book *Irredentism in European Politics*, a study of all territorial claims made in Europe since 1848 and in the world since 1945.

In addition to this academic component, he wants his students to gain practical experience so that they learn how theories translate into real-life politics. In this respect, he considers the proximity to international organizations and agencies to be one of Vienna's greatest assets. The DA is thus seen as a place of mergence: an institution of solid academic research activity which is not merely conducted inside the ivory tower, but constantly looking for practical applicability. As Prof. Kornprobst puts it: "*In the long run, I imagine strengthening the DA as a research venue by setting up a PhD programme. In a rapidly changing world, innovation and creativity are the most important tools to keep the spirit and traditions of an old and prestigious academic institution alive.*"

Manuel Mattiat (Germany), 13th MAIS

between people. That is what we call public diplomacy. As international relations are not just between governments any more, it is very important to know much about how other people think, what is the position of their countries, how business is done there, and how their societies work. The most important qualities are empathy and the ability to adapt quickly to new situations.

In times of modern communication, do we still need that many diplomats?

Of course! Communication has become faster, transportation has become easier. Thus, the importance of diplomats has shifted tremendously. Let's have no illusions about it, diplomats are on the one hand less important than they used to be. On the other, they are more important. Because of the speed of communication there are many, many more international events to attend. Just look at the UN. It was such a big thing in the 1940s or 1950s when diplomats came by ship to New York for a global conference. Nowadays, there are international conferences almost every day somewhere on the globe dealing with many different, newly emerged issues. Diplomacy has changed a lot.

You have mentioned change. When we look at your career – you served in Berlin during the Cold War, you worked in Belgrade in the period immediately after Tito's death, you saw Washington under Nixon, Carter, Ford. Our students know these times just from history books; most of them were even too young to experience the Cold War. How has diplomatic life changed since these days?

I think the most important reason why diplomacy has changed so much is because we live in a much more open society today. When I was in Berlin, the Austrian delegation was accredited with the three Western Allies, the head of our mission presented his credentials to the Allied commander of West Berlin. Whenever leaving West Berlin through Checkpoint Charlie, I realized what communism and living on the edge of war really meant. Everybody had to be very careful, everybody was watched by the other side and even for diplomats it was not so easy to make contact with diplomats from the other bloc. Those were the days when neutrality was something very special and useful – neutral diplomats, unlike others, had contact with both blocs.

What is the position of smaller countries nowadays? The number of small countries has skyrocketed.

When you look at the EU, it's easy to show that small countries have disproportionately great influence. Having said this, one has always to prevent the four, five bigger members from making decisions among themselves without asking the smaller members. That's why you have to be constantly vigilant not to lose your political influence.

Many retired diplomats publish their experiences and their observations. What story would you publish?

None.

Never?

Never. Diplomats should not confuse their position with that of a political decision-maker. I mean, a diplomat is a civil servant who tries to reach the goals politicians set.

Herr Direktor, what advice would you give to young graduates of our Diplomatic Academy?

First of all, I would say that serving your country in the Foreign Service is one of the most attractive choices you have, it is a fascinating, always changing, challenging profession with marvelous career perspectives. I know in most countries it is difficult to get in, but if you work hard, you have good chances to succeed.

On the other hand, there are so many alternatives that are open to talented, well-trained graduates. The Academy offers education in many skills needed for an international career: social skills, negotiation skills and languages. And the international environment at our Academy is an excellent preparation for the professional life on an international level.

Herr Direktor, thank you very much, danke für das Gespräch!

Eine schrecklich große Familie

Absolventinnen und Absolventen sind das größte Kapital der DA. Mehr als 1.400 Alumni zählt unsere Familie bereits alleine aus den Lehrgängen. Mehr Mitglieder, als das Wiener Burgtheater Plätze hat. 1.400 Expertinnen und Experten auf dem internationalen Parkett, die über den gesamten Globus verteilt arbeiten, studieren, leben. Dazu kommen TeilnehmerInnen der Spezialkurse für junge DiplomatinInnen aus Ost- und Südosteuropa, Zentralasien, Afrika und dem pazifischen Raum.

Dieses ständig wachsende, Generationen und Nationalitäten übergreifende Netzwerk, das die Erinnerung an die gemeinsamen Jahre in Wien verbindet, immer enger zu knüpfen hat sich die DA zum Ziel gesetzt. Das Mentoring-Programm, die AbsolventInnen-Datenbank sowie das jährliche Internationale AbsolventInnen-treffen sind bewährte und beliebte Einrichtungen, nun kommen neue hinzu.

Das im April 2009 eröffnete AbsolventInnenbüro bietet eine zusätzliche Schnitt- und Informationsstelle, die für Ihre/Eure Anliegen zur Verfügung steht (Mag. Andreas Ehrmann, andreas.ehrmann@da-vienna.ac.at, Tel. +43.1.505 72 72 - 118).

Darüber hinaus geht der ClubDA in die (geografische) Breite. Mit der Gründung von lokalen Chapters soll die Kommunikation zwischen DA-Alumni, die nicht in Österreich leben, intensiviert werden. Ziel unserer Arbeit ist es, noch breiter bewusst zu machen: Egal, in welches Land man reist oder zieht, in welcher internationalen Organisation oder Branche man arbeiten möchte, ein DA-Familienmitglied ist schon dort und kann wertvolle Kontakte, Hilfe und Infos geben. Vieles kann man heute kaufen, DA-Kontakte aber sind und bleiben unbezahlbar.

Andreas Ehrmann (Österreich)



Besuch aus Kasachstan



Spezialkurs für Kasachstan, 20. 4. - 8. 5. 2009

Kasachstan – ein Land, mit dem die meisten von uns bis vor Kurzem nur die Großregion Zentralasien und seine reichen Bodenschätze verbunden haben. Das war, bevor Anfang Mai eine Gruppe junger DiplomatinInnen aus Kasachstan nach Wien gereist ist, um hier drei Wochen lang in die Geheimnisse der Europäischen Union eingeweiht zu werden. Das Seminar unserer kasachischen KollegInnen war gleichzeitig eine Gelegenheit für die StudentInnen der Diplomatischen Akademie, Land und Leute näher kennen zu lernen.

Die im Studienprogramm des Spezialkurses für Kasachstan behandelten Themen reichten von der Entwicklung der europäischen Integration über Umweltthemen bis hin zu Verhandlungstechnik. Das breite Spektrum reflektierte die neue Qualität der Beziehungen zwischen Kasachstan und der EU, denn im Jahr 2007 gab die EU den Startschuss zur Vorbereitung eines neuen Partnerschaftsprogramms mit Zentralasien. Die Republik Kasachstan entwickelte ihrerseits ein Programm mit dem Titel „Der Weg nach Europa“. Dieses soll die wirtschaftliche Entwicklung, den Rechtsstaat und die Demokratie in Kasachstan fördern. Ein wichtiges Thema in der Zusammenarbeit mit der EU ist auch die Vorbereitung des kasachischen OSZE-Vorsitzes im Jahr 2010. Als besonders wertvoll erachtete die Gruppe auch die zahlreichen Besuche von internationalen Organisationen in Wien.

Für Zhanargul Khamitova, eine der 15 SeminarteilnehmerInnen, bedeutete ihr Aufenthalt in Wien sehr viel, denn es sind junge DiplomatinInnen wie sie, in deren Händen die Erreichung der gesetzten Ziele liegt. „Wir haben nicht nur unser theoretisches Wissen erweitert, sondern auch von der jahrelangen praktischen Erfahrung hochrangiger österreichischer DiplomatinInnen profitiert. In Wien hatten wir auch die Gelegenheit, uns in Englisch als Arbeitssprache der Diplomatie zu üben.“

Zhanargul Khamitova (Kasachstan-Spezialkurs)
Cornelia Reibach (Österreich), 45. DLG

L'axe Paris - Pristina - Tetovo

„Vous allez où? Au Kosovo. En Macédoine?“ Telle était la réaction de la plupart de mes collègues quand je leur ai parlé de la destination d'un voyage d'études dans le cadre du cours La France et l'Europe. Au premier regard, j'ai partagé cette impression qu'on ne pourrait pas choisir d'endroit en Europe qui soit plus éloignée de la France que les villes de Pristina et de Tetovo. Toutefois, si on a eu la chance de fréquenter le cours offert par M. Cullin, professeur de science politique à l'Académie depuis de nombreuses années et directeur du Centre Félix Kreissler de recherche sur les relations franco-autrichiennes, on comprend très bien pourquoi ces deux villes entrent parfaitement dans l'étude scientifique consacrée à la France et à l'Europe. Se concentrant sur l'évolution des relations franco-allemandes et des relations entre la France et l'Europe du Sud-Est, le cours de M. Cullin ajoute une perspective supplémentaire à la formation que nous recevons à l'Académie Diplomatique, à savoir les questions de mémoire. La réconciliation des peuples, des minorités et des majorités au Kosovo et en Macédoine représente un moment particulier dans les Balkans, dans lequel l'expérience du couple franco-allemand est toujours pertinente. „Si on se souvient du début de la réconciliation franco-allemande, on constate que c'étaient des gens à contre-courant des opinions publiques dominantes, par exemple d'anciens résistants comme Stéphane Hessel ou Alfred Grosser avec son Comité d'échanges avec l'Allemagne nouvelle, qui ont déclenché le processus. Dans les maquis mais aussi dans les camps de concentration il n'y a pas eu de réconciliation mais simplement la continuité d'une solidarité de Français et d'Allemands attachés aux mêmes valeurs“ dit M. Cullin.

Toutefois, ce voyage exige la participation active des étudiants de l'Académie Diplomatique: Pendant nos rencontres avec de nombreux chercheurs et étudiants de l'University for Business and Technology à Pristina et de l'Université du Sud-Est européen à Tetovo, nous avons été

encouragés à mener nos propres projets de recherche, focalisant entre autres sur le rôle des mythes fondateurs existant dans la région et sur l'islam dans les deux pays. Il est envisagé de publier les fruits de ces recherches dans la collection de l'Académie Diplomatique, les Favorita Papers.

Cornelia Reibach (Autriche), 45. DLG

Prof. Michel Cullin
(4ème à gauche) avec ses étudiants



DA Spring Dinner

With the aim of bringing the DA community together for an evening of culture, company and culinary delights, the Academy's first Spring Dinner was held on 1 May 2009. About 80 guests, including our new director and his wife, gathered in the Festsaal to be treated not only to wonderful food and wine, but also to the musical talents of our own DA students. Oliver Gascoigne and Scott Nelson, both of 13th MAIS, displayed their musical expertise on the cello and piano respectively, much to the delight of all in attendance. The main course of roast veal was accompanied by a chocolate and chilli dessert, and the festivities concluded with port and coffee by candlelight. For those who desired further merriment, the bar and gardens of the Academy played host to continued cavorting and capers, late into the night.



By all accounts this was an evening which demonstrates the strong social spirit being fostered at the DA. It is our hope that the Spring Dinner will be repeated next year, and, in time, become a mainstay of community life at the Diplomatic Academy.

Samuel Adamson (Great Britain), 13th MAIS

Tim Goudsmid (Netherlands), 13th MAIS

IMPRESSUM

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Celebrating Diversity: Different Faces, One World



DA Ball 2009, opening ceremony

More than 550 guests, including 10 ambassadors, 40 other diplomats, 60 alumni and numerous students, "*celebrated diversity*" at the Annual Diplomatic Academy Charity Ball on 21 March 2009.

The Annual Charity Ball, a student-organised event, which this year was held under the honorary patronage of *Dr. Benita Ferrero-Waldner*, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, was a great success regarding both the number of guests and the money raised for charity. The ball was attended by high-ranking diplomats, including ambassadors and permanent representatives of countries such as Armenia, Chile, France, India, Iraq, Mongolia, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and Syria. Moreover, it brought together Austrian officials, representatives of international organisations, professors, DA alumni and students.

The organizers prepared many surprises for the guests, starting with a big tent in the garden of the Academy, music performances and dance shows, traditional food and a tombola draw with wonderful prizes provided by the many sponsors of the Ball.

All the proceeds of the Ball are traditionally donated to a chosen project. This year the amount of €5,100.- will support Learn & Play, a project of CCF *Kinderhilfswerk* (www.ccf-kinderhilfswerk.de) in Angola from which 20,000 students in 16 rural schools will benefit. This was the reason for the 2009 Ball's slogan: Celebrating Diversity: Different Faces – One World.

Armenuhi Hovakimian (Armenia), 12th MAIS



DA Spring Dinner in the Academy's *Festsaal*, May 1, 2009