

## Information – Informations – Informationen

### Prix Émile et Aline Mayrisch – 3e édition

Le mercredi 20 janvier 2016 a eu lieu à l'Abbaye de Neumünster, Luxembourg, la troisième remise du Prix Émile et Aline Mayrisch organisée par le «Cercle des Amis de Colpach». Doté de 10.000 € par le groupe sidérurgique ArcelorMittal, le prix instauré pour honorer la mémoire de l'ancien directeur général de l'Arbed et de son épouse dans le double but de garder en éveil «l'esprit de Colpach» caractérisé par l'ouverture aux courants culturels et de promouvoir l'entente entre les peuples européens, a été décerné cette année au Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Wilfried Loth pour son livre *Europas Einigung. Eine unvollendete Geschichte* et ses mérites dans le rapprochement transfrontalier entre historiens de l'intégration européenne. Marie-Thérèse Bitsch, professeur émérite à l'Université de Strasbourg, a fait la laudatio.

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### International Conference of the European Liaison Committee of Historians – Groupe de Liaison des Professeurs d'Histoire Contemporaine auprès de la Commission des Communautés européennes in cooperation with the Universidade Nova of Lisbon

#### *EU FUNDING*

24-25 October 2016, in Lisbon, Portugal

Local organizer: Alice Cunha, Instituto de História Contemporânea – Universidade Nova de Lisboa

Scientific Committee: Maria Fernanda Rollo (Universidade Nova de Lisboa); Antonio Varsori (Università de Padova); Jan van der Harst (University of Groningen); Charles Barthel (Archives Nationales, Luxembourg); Gérard Bossuat (Université de Cergy-Pontoise); Elena Calandri (Università de Padova); Anne Deighton (Wolfson College, Oxford); Michel Dumoulin (Université Catholique de Louvain); Michael Gehler (Universität Hildesheim); Fernando Guirao (Universitat Pompeu Fabra); Johnny Laursen (University of Aarhus); Wilfried Loth (Universität Duisburg-Essen); N. Piers Ludlow (London School of Economics); Kiran Klaus Patel (Maastricht University); Nicolae Păun (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai); Sylvain Schirmann (Université de Strasbourg III Robert Schuman)

European funding has grown in parallel with European integration itself, not only in numbers, but also in its conception: whereas the Treaty of Rome (1957) highlights the need to consolidate economic unity among the Member States, a year later the two first Structural Funds (European Social Fund and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund) are created. After the first enlargement a third one – the European Regional Development Fund (1975) emerges before the third enlargement round gives naissance to the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes while the Single European Act (1987) introduces the Economic and Social Cohesion Programme. Do names change, but the policy remains the same? To what extent, at what cost and with which results?

Historiography on European integration has dealt with a number of research topics, but has neglected so far the multiple diversity of the European Economic Community/European Union (EU) funding. Bearing that in mind, this conference will focus on EU funding broadly in an historical perspective, not neglecting pre-accession aid to candidate countries. Therefore, it has twofold aims: first, to analyse the conception, distribution, management and outcomes of European funds; and secondly to examine the policy changes, the application and results of the pre-accession instruments.

Research topics may include, but are not limited to the impact of European funds and pre-accession aid over time and space; the EU funds' absorption capacity; cost-benefit's analyses at the national and EU level; how member-states compete for funds; and at the actors' level, how community, central and local institutions, inter-institutional coordination and/or public-private partnerships have functioned within the framework of EU funding.

The purpose of the EU Funding Conference is to gather scholars working on European funding, from a wide range of perspectives, including approaches to understand actors, institutions and policies. Quantitative and qualitative research, as well as national case studies and cross-country comparative work, are welcome.

Scholars interested in presenting a new research at the conference are requested to send a proposal that must include: the name of applicant, his affiliation, the title of Paper, an abstract (max. 500 words), a short CV (max. 250 words).

Proposals must be sent in a single email message in word format to [alice.cunha@fesh.unl.pt](mailto:alice.cunha@fesh.unl.pt), by January 15, 2016. They may be submitted either in English or in French (working languages of the conference). After the conference and the peer-reviewing process, selected papers will be published in a thematic issue of the *Journal of European Integration History*, in early 2017.

Important dates:

Abstract submission deadline: January 15, 2016

Abstract acceptance notification: January 29, 2015

Full paper submission deadline: September 1, 2016

**Conference Report: International Conference on the History of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC, 1973-2013): Past and Present of Trade Unions and European Integration (22nd and 23th October 2015 at the Social Sciences Faculty, University of Copenhagen)**

This conference was the culmination of a research project detailing the history of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and brought together a diverse and highly-respected panel of leading researchers in trade union history. Two crucial contributions to the understanding of the ETUC have evolved out of this project (created by the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI)): a first volume, written for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ETUC by the project's scientific coordinator, Pierre Tilly (UCL/Louvain-la-Neuve), outlining the history of the ETUC as a European confederation, and a second volume detailing the relationship between the ETUC and national trade unions. It was the chapters of this second volume that formed the basis of this conference, with each author presenting his analyses. The conference, however, aimed to serve a dual purpose. On the one hand, to act as a traditional academic conference in which leading academics from a variety of social science disciplines could present and discuss their research. On the other hand, and perhaps more importantly, the conference also provided a forum in which the members of the project could debate and plan how to develop and expand the project further. To this end, the programme set aside a number of sessions to aid these discussions.

Notably, this conference took place in a context of increasing scepticism towards the European project (from left and right) and attempts to further marginalise the trade union movement as austerity policies continue to hit the continent. The importance of historicising the European trade union's relationship with the ETUC and the EU – from an academic and social perspective – was consistently raised throughout the conference. This addressed questions of how academics can contribute to the trade union movement but also of how trade unions can provide a progressive role in European integration. On this basis, the participation of Carola Fyschbach-Pyttel (former General Secretary of the European Public Service Union (EPSU)) and Józef Niemiec (former Deputy General Secretary of the ETUC) as keynote speakers was an important contribution to develop these links. However, their interventions also highlighted the huge challenges that face unions at the present time as well as the positive contributions they have made.

At many points throughout the conference it was argued that unions' voices must not be lost in the narrative of European integration. As a network of trade union scholars, the attendees of this conference intend to make an important contribution to the European trade union movement. This would not merely be done by documenting its trajectory but by critically analysing its successes and failures, victories and defeats. Many interesting discussions took place regarding how to take this project further, including the possibility of writing a further volume which would historicise European trade unions in certain sectors or diffusing the project as a learning instrument within the arena of public history. Overall, the conference offered a

fantastic environment in which to reflect on the completion of one project whilst laying the basis for further work and development in the future.

*Andrew Waterman – PhD Researcher, University of Portsmouth*