

Report on the Poznan Seminar

9th – 12th December 2005

In December Young Democrats – MD (Poland) hosted a YEPP seminar on **“New Neighbourhood Policy”**.

The seminar kicked off on Thursday night with a reception at City Hall of Poznan. The reception was addressed by Waldy Dzikowski MP, Ryszard Grobelny Mayor of Poznan, Jan Artymowski MD Chairman and YEPP President Daniel Bautista.

Accommodation was delivered at Hotel Rzymiski in Poznan.

The following morning, delegates travelled to The Institution of Higher Learning For Humanities and Journalism in Poznan. It was there that Friday’s discussion and debate took place. Welcome speech was given by prof. Wojciech Wrzosek – Rector of The Institution of Higher Learning For Humanities and Journalism.

First up was a panel discussion on the “Eastern Enlargement – consequences for the New Neighbourhood Policy”. Due to the presence in Poznan, the meeting was addressed by prof. Marek Gawęcki – well known expert from University of Poznan. The other speaker was Stephan Raabe, Director of Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Poland. For many years the Foundation has been supporting the public debate on Eastern Enlargement. Director Raabe addressed the delegates on the topic, and offered us the view-point of the current German view point on the Neighbourhood Policy.

Next up was the discussion on “Belarus – the last European dictatorship? What could the EU do to improve the situation?” and was addressed by a panel of eminent people, including Agata Wierzbowska – Centre for Eastern Studies and Jan Czuryłowicz, Representative of the 5+ opposition coalition. Centre for Eastern Studies is one most prestigious think-tanks in Poland. Agata Wierzbowska referred the political aspects of modern history of Belarus. Jan Czuryłowicz presented the first hand impressions of dictatorship of Alexandr Lukashenko. Presently, Czuryłowicz is working as an adviser to Vice-President of European Parliament and gave us his feelings of European understanding of Belarus case.

After the lunch the third panel discussion on “the Influence of the presidential elections in Ukraine on the country’s relations with the EU” gathered three excellent experts. Vladymyr Horbach from Institute for Euro – Atlantic Cooperation in Kiev, spoke initially of modern election history of Ukraine. Dr Grzegorz Kostrzewa-Zorbas analysed the “Orange Revolution” political impact on further opening of UE. Dr Kostrzewa-Zorbas’ controversial idea was to agree to have Ukraine and Turkey entering the EU together. Julita Banaśkiewicz from European Institute for Democracy exchanged her experience of being the international election observer in Donieck in Ukraine.

Later in the evening we were transferred to dinner at old village restaurant, outside Poznan City.

The next day, Saturday was set aside for the YEPP working groups and the YEPP Council to meet. Saturday’s work took place in the Poznan Financial Centre and in the morning the Permanent Working Groups of YEPP met.

After lunch, the YEPP Council meeting took place, the honorary guest of the Council was Jacek Saryusz-Wolski MEP, Vice-president of the European Parliament in charge of the eastern dimension of the New Neighbourhood Policy of the EU. During the event the various working papers and resolutions were accepted by the YEPP Council Meeting.

That evening, after the YEPP Council meeting, delegates were taken to Hotel Rzymski for “MD 10th Anniversary Party”. On Saturday night, the delegates dispersed to a variety of night clubs around Poznan, before eventually retiring to the hotel early on Sunday morning.

Michal Szczerba – MD International Secretary