

**GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
EUROPEAN STUDIES INSTITUTE
8TH MEETING - MINUTES
Moscow, 26 February 2009**

AGENDA

- 1. Report of independent external experts on the activities of the European Studies Institute (ESI) and report of Administration on ESI activities.**
- 2. Development Strategy of the ESI for the years 2010-2013.**
- 3. Any other issue (date of the next Board meeting).**

PARTICIPANTS

Russian Federation side

Prihodko Sergey	Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation
Grushko Alexander	Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Danilova Elena	Director of Department of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation
Ivanov Ivan	Chief Researcher of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Science, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Torkunov Anatoly	Rector of the MGIMO (University), member of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Filippov Alexander	Head of Division of Multilateral Cooperation and International Organizations, Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation on behalf of the Director of the Department of International Cooperation in Education and Science Nichkov Vladislav
Entin Mark	Director of the European Studies Institute
Shashikhina Tamara	Deputy director of the European Studies Institute

European Union side

Berg Eiki	Professor of International relations, Department of Political Science, University of Tartu
Cadet Jean	Counselor of the Administration on Affairs of special importance of Accounts Chamber of France (ministerial rank)
Hafner Gerhard	Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, University of Vienna
Segbers Klaus	Director of the East European Studies at the “Free University of Berlin” and the “East-European Institute”
Tarschys Daniel	Professor of Political Science and Public Administration, Stockholm University
De Zwaan Jaap Willem	Director of the Netherlands Institute of International relations in the Hague
Carlos Ferreira	First Secretary of the Embassy of Portugal in the Russian Federation on behalf of the Ambassador of Portugal to the Russian Federation Manuel M. Curto

Observers

Franco Marc	Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Russia
Scaramuzzo Nicola	Project Officer, EU-Russian cooperation programme, Delegation of the European Commission to Russia
Vuijlsteke Marc	Director General, Development Office, College of Europe, Bruges
Nabokov Annouchka	Programme manager, Development Office, College of Europe, Bruges

Absent

Triantaphyllou Dimitris	Director General, International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS), Athens
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Guests

	Independent Expert
Karpukhina Elena	Vice-Rector of Academy of National Economy under the Government of the Russian Federation

BOARD MEMBERS PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS

Prikhodko S. welcomed the participants and suggested the agenda.

On the first issue

Board members listened to:

Karpukhina E. presented a detailed and thorough review of the Report prepared by independent experts as a result of the Mid Term Evaluation of the activities carried at the ESI from the date of its constitution till December 2008.

The experts underlined that the ESI has made a significant contribution to the development of relations between Russia and the EU. Based on the results achieved so far, the Institute should continue its activities, developing further its potential.

The experts conducted surveys among current students and students who graduated the ESI. The survey showed that students were mostly satisfied with the educational process and with the knowledge gained at the ESI. They noted, however, that the timetable was quite tight as it requires classroom evening attendance (after work) every day. The experts recommended considering an extension of the timetable to give students more time for readings at home.

The experts commented also on students' foreign language competence, recommending checking the level of foreign language competence prior to admitting students to the Institute.

The experts' key recommendations can be summarised as follows:

- The Institute should continue its activity building on experience gained and results achieved so far, taking into account the recommendations formulated in the report;
- The Institute should create a learning environment more suitable for adult students who work during the day. Students shall be granted several evening-off during the week to study the relevant material; they could also attend intensive weekend sessions;
- The Institute could extend the programme by an additional semester or half semester for students who may need more time, equally the Institute could organise foreign language courses for new students during the period June to September prior to commencing the master's programme in September;
- The Institute should constitute the ESI alumni association;
- Changes should be introduced in a smooth way and following a step-by-step approach.

Entin M. expressed gratitude to the experts for the work carried.

Entin M. together with Karpukhina E. answered quite numerous questions raised by the Board.

Discussion:

Ivanov I. made a proposal to develop a training course on lobbying.

Cadet J. conceded that knowledge of foreign language is very important however considered it to be not a decisive issue. In the EU Institutions it is common practice to use the services of interpreters. Given the existence of 23 official languages, it is advisable not to give preference to one specific foreign language.

Grushko A. drew the attention of the Board to the point that establishing too high admission requirements concerning foreign language competence could impede a large part of government officials, interested in and working on EU-Russia relations, to enter the Institute. He wished the Institute could find a balanced approach and suggested considering waiving too high foreign

language competence requirements for those officials who are involved in building partnership relations between Russia and the EU.

Berg E., Tarschys D., Segbers K., De Zwaan J., Hafner G., Vuijlsteke M., Ivanov I., Phillipov A., Torkunov A. also took part in discussion.

The discussion was focused on how to improve the quality of teaching at the ESI and how to create the conditions that would facilitate studying at the ESI for several categories of students.

Regarding foreign language competence, everybody agreed that students should have sufficient knowledge of at least one working language of the EU to be able to read legal documents or other relevant documents in the original language. This would also greatly help them to consult relevant documents when preparing the Master's thesis.

Hafner G. raised the issue of attracting more foreign visiting professors at the ESI.

The Board members agreed:

- 1.1. To assess as positive the activities carried out at the ESI.
- 1.2. To recommend the ESI to implement the Strategy 2010-2013 taking into account the recommendations of the experts on how to improve the functioning of the Institute.

Additional issue:

Before moving to the second item on the agenda, the ESI Chairman raised the issue of extending the mandate of the Board beyond the initial three-year period (2006-2009).

Prikhodko S. advised the Board to discuss the extension of its own mandate beyond the three-year period prior to discussing the second item on the agenda. This approach was supported by the ESI Administration and the Delegation of the European Commission to Russia. The issue of the mandate of the Board was introduced before adopting the Strategy for the following reasons. The Strategy would typically affect the life of the ESI for the next three years, 2010-2013. Before adopting the Strategy the Board should discuss the extension of its own mandate given that the Board should not only be responsible for adopting the Strategy but also for making contribution to its implementation by the Administration of the Institute.

Board members listened to:

Franco M. explained that as funding body, on EU side, the Delegation of the European Commission would support the extension of the mandate of the Board members who are specialists in the field of European Integration Studies. As for the participation of Ambassadors of EU Member State, the Head of Delegation proposed the following. To replace the current two Ambassadors with the Ambassadors of the EU Member State whose country would hold the current and next Presidency of the European Union on the date when the Board takes place. This would mean that the Ambassadors of Sweden and Spain would participate at the next Governing Board meeting, replacing Mr. Jean Cadet and Mr. Manuel M. Curto. Such an organizational decision would likely situate better the activities of the ESI into the wider picture of the EU-Russia relations.

Cadet J. agreed on the need to introduce new members into the Governing Board. Mr Curto was absent, however his consent was received beforehand.

The Board members decided:

To extend the mandate Governing Board members taking into account the proposal of the Head of Delegation.

On the second issue

Entin M. underlined that the recommendations of the independent experts, included in the report, reflected comments and suggestions expressed by all those who had been interviewed (stakeholders). The Director appreciated the constructive approach underling the analysis of the experts. Comments and suggestions proposed in the report were taken into consideration to a maximum extent in the text of ESI Strategy 2010-2013 submitted for consideration and approval to the Board.

Meanwhile, the ESI Administration somewhat had already begun to introduce some of the recommendations. Those who will be involved in the creation of the alumni association had been already identified.

The Institute's implementation of new activities proposed in the Strategy will happen year by year, following a step-by-step approach during the period 2010-2013, with gradual implementation all new activities foreseen in the Strategy by 2013.

The Director classified the proposals included in the Strategy as follows:

- proposals aimed at improving current activities;
- proposals focused on the development of new activities in Moscow;
- expanding the activity of the ESI in the regions.

The ESI Strategy 2010-2013 was developed in cooperation with the Delegation during several months prior to the Board meeting. It takes into account the views of all interested parties. Once the Strategy is approved, it will take few months to develop the budget, which will then be submitted to the Board for approval at the next meeting.

The Director proposed the Board members to review the Strategy chapter by chapter.

Prikhodko S. emphasized the importance of a prompt adoption of the Strategy. This would help to raise the issue of further supporting the ESI at the next EU-Russia summit, on 22 May 2009 in Khabarovsk.

To this end, the Chairman stated that it would be good to adopt a brief statement concerning the ESI, to be passed to the Leaders of Russian Federation and European Union as a sort of political assessment of the Institute role and function within the framework of the EU-Russia cooperation. This would also help secure continuation of co-financing of the Institute for the next three years.

Discussion:

Prikhodko S., Entin M., Franco M., Vuijsteke M., Cadet J., Berg E., Segbers K., Tarschys D., De Zwaan J., Hafner G., Torkunov A., Ivanov I., Phillipov A. took part in discussion.

During the discussion a number of suggestions were made, notably:

- To indicate expressly the Bureau's responsibilities in the text of the Strategy;
- To leave the decision regarding the duration of the Master's Programme to the Administration of the Institute, which should report later on this issue;

- To focus on the quality of teaching and research at the ESI rather than increasing the number of students;
- To carry out the necessary work for the organisation of summer preparatory foreign language sessions; intensive one-week sessions, weekends sessions;
- To treat the regional development as one of the priority areas of the ESI;
- To move forward into the direction of teaching at the ESI into one of the working languages of the EU;
- To diversify the type of educational services provided by the ESI;
- To support the implementation of the European Studies Institute beyond the current period and to bring the views of the Governing Board to the leaders of the Russian Federation and European Union.
- To approve the ESI Strategy as amended by members of the Governing Board;

The Board members decided the following:

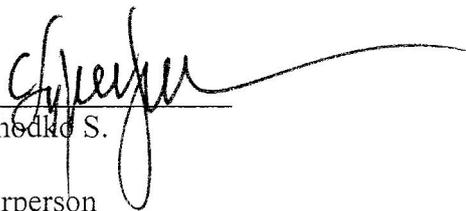
- 2.1. To approve the attached revised ESI Strategy (as amended by the Board members during the GB meeting and via written procedure.
- 2.2. To delegate the ESI Administration to prepare the ESI budget 2010-2013 (in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission).
- 2.3. To support the idea of continuing the ESI activity beyond the current implementation period.
- 2.4. To entrust the Chairperson of the Board to pass on to the leaders of the Russian Federation and European Union on the occasion of the Summit EU-Russia the proposal of further development of the ESI beyond the current project period.

On the third question

The Board members decided:

- 3.1. To hold the next Board meeting on 2 July 2009.
- 3.2. To devote it to the approval of the budget of the ESI for the academic year 2009-2010 and of the draft budget 2010-2013 based on the ESI Strategy 2010-2013.

«APPROVED»



Prikhodko S.

Chairperson
of the Governing Board
European Studies Institute at MGIMO-University