



Road-Show – details on programme

Preparatory initiatives

Nørre Gymnasium was selected because it's a high school with dynamic teachers and an international profile. It is situated in a popular suburb to Copenhagen where many inhabitants have non-Danish roots. Several teachers had focused on the EU in the weeks leading up to the Road-Show as part of the language lessons (e.g. speech of Tony Blair to the European Parliament) or the political science lessons (history, institutions, future challenges). Several classes had prepared questions for the debate meeting in advance.

3 selected classes had special sessions with Anne Mette Vestergaard and Anna de Klauman, who had composed an EU role play for them. The aim was to simulate a Council meeting, where ministers of foreign affairs were to agree upon a list of three EU top priorities for the years to come. The feed-back on the role play was very positive. One student wrote in his report: "The role play provides a special understanding of how to argue and discuss, even though it is not a real situation. It also encourages participating more in the ongoing EU debate". Another told his teacher that this was his very best experience he had ever had at school.

Road-show: First day Monday, September 12

10.00 - 11.00: Meeting in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Daniel Keohane and Sebastian Kurpas had a frank and open discussion about the future of Europe with the head of the European Policy department and part of his staff.

10.30: Interview with the Danish National Radio

Carlos Closa gave an interview to EU journalist Jens Reiermann for the leading Danish radio programme on political issues, Orientering.

Title of interview: "Wanted: A purpose for the EU". 7 minutes about the crisis in the EU after the French and Dutch referenda. http://www.dr.dk/orientering/or_MP/2005/ark0537.shtm

12.00 – 14.00: Debate meeting at Nørre Gymnasium (high school)

500 students and teachers attended. The atmosphere was good, the questions were pertinent but the feed-back has been mixed. Some reactions were positive; while others stressed that it proved difficult to create a structured and nuanced debate with such a big audience.

15.00 – 16.30: Seminars at Copenhagen Business School, Centre for European Studies

31 students participated: 2 Spanish speaking, 4 German speaking and 26 English speaking.

Programme: Short common introduction, where the diverging point of views were highlighted. Then the participants each got the responsibility for a group of students. Daniel Keohane talked about Europe to the students who studied English, Sebastian Kurpas to those who studied German and Carlos Closa to those who studied Spanish. The feed-back from the Business School was more than

positive, even though the responsible professor had hoped to attract more students. The participants were struck by the fact that the students were much more timid in their approach than at the high school. In the English speaking group few active students kept the debate going with many questions while there were fruitful talks in the smaller groups.

19.00 – 21.00: Public debate meeting at the University of Copenhagen

130 people (roughly half students and half civil servants, political parties, trade unions, pr-consultants, diplomats and others) participated in an intensive and entertaining debate with highly qualified questions. More than 20 people were refused at the entry as they couldn't pave their way into the crowded auditorium.

Lots of comments from the auditorium proved that this event was extremely successful. The participants made the following comments after the debate: "The level of debate was very high and the questions really forced you to think hard" - "It was fantastic" - "The very best EU debate that I've ever attended"

Second day Tuesday, September 13

12.00-14.00: Public debate meeting at the University of Aarhus

53 students and a few professors participated with many questions in a highly qualified debate. The debate was more academic and less intense than at the University of Copenhagen – partly because the auditorium was too spacious. In their evaluation the Association of Political Science wrote, "We were happy that the debate didn't have a one-sided pro-European attitude towards the EU. We appreciated all the nuances in the debate, the only sad thing being that we did not have more time."

Follow up with the press

Daniel Keohane talked to journalist from the Danish daily Politiken. Subsequently on September 27 Politiken published the Op-Ed "A Citizens Compact – Reaching out to the Citizens of Europe", written by members of the EPIN network. <http://www.diis.dk/sw15061.asp>

Anne Mette Vestergaard was approached in order to follow up on the EPIN initiative by various Danish political parties, MEPs and journals: Presentations, articles and informal discussions.

Sebastian Kurpas made an interview with the daily Information published on September 27. <http://www.information.dk/InfWebsite/FremvisningPHP/Common/Information.php?pShow=Arkiv/ArkTAvVis.php&pTAvVis=182534>