



From the Secretary General,

The CEIS had a very intensive first semester: it produced four working papers series and as many books. Among various publications for reviews and conference papers, we might highlight our participation in the conference on Islam in the Balkans organized by the University of Genoa and our partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) focusing on Southeastern Europe's transformation after the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union on January 1.

Let me summarize the main arguments of the CEIS's current approach: In a new geo-strategic environment, firstly, the regional dimension must be conceived in a significantly broader framework, bridging various sub-regional areas such as Southeastern Europe and the Black Sea region in order to capitalise the enormous potential for co-operation and secondly, it is urgent to develop a comprehensive strategic approach towards Russia to tackle some key problems such as the disputes over UNMIK/Kosovo, missiles and energy. This speaks in favour of a renewed pan-European dynamic complementing the EU approach. This, of course, opens up a set of questions that the CEIS has to discuss in depth.

Wolfgang Petritsch, chair of the CEIS Senior Advisory Board, has been awarded the prestigious European Human Rights Prize for 2006 by the Pro Europa European cultural foundation, which operates under the patronage of the President of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. The prize was presented on 23 February 2007 at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. While Carla Del Ponte pronounced the *laudatio*, the CEIS took the initiative to publish a tribute *Conflict and Renewal: Europe Transformed* edited by Hannes Swoboda and Christophe Solioz.

Last but not least, thanks to our partnership with IDM, we have now opened a proper office in Vienna, and we are looking forward to develop our activities in and from Vienna.

Geneva, 15 July 2007

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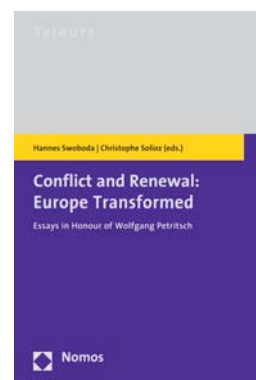
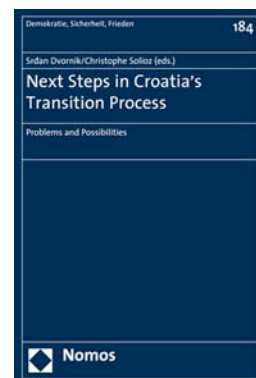
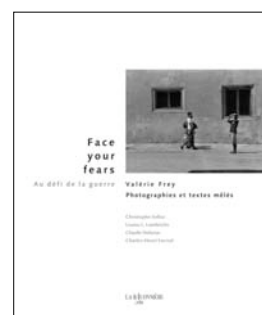
BOOKS

During the first semester, the CEIS has published three books: in February, the second revised edition of Christophe Solioz's *Turning Points in Post-War Bosnia* (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2007); in March, *Face Your Fears — Au défi de la guerre* by Valérie Frey (Geneva: La Baconnière/Arts, 2007); and in June, *Next Steps in Croatia's Transition Process* edited by Srđan Dvornik and Christophe Solioz (Baden-Baden: Nomos, 2007). The latter gathers texts by Žarko Puhovski, Ivo Bičanić, Srdjan Vrcan, Srđan Dvornik and Paul Stubbs.

Against the background of Wolfgang Petritsch's 60th birthday, Hannes Swoboda and Christophe Solioz took the initiative to publish *Conflict and Renewal: Europe Transformed*. This book brings together the views of policymakers, leading scholars and practitioners in post-conflict management from Europe and the United States — many of them active in the historic process under way in Southeastern Europe and beyond. Reviewed in this volume are pertinent issues of the continent's fundamental transformation fifty years after the signing of the Treaty of Rome. The results of post-conflict recovery are critically assessed, with consideration given to transitional justice and reconciliation issues, complemented by a detailed examination of broad political and economic questions, including human and minority rights in war-torn societies. In this volume, Europe is viewed as an emerging global player against the backdrop of challenges posed by the delayed transition in the Western Balkans. In appraising the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the status of the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo, contours of a long-overdue regional vision for the Balkans in the New Europe emerge.

The book, comprising insightful essays and the views of a diverse group of contributors, uniquely features the work of a select number of contemporary authors whose interventions both contrast with and complement the essays. These authors include Madeleine Albright, Franz-Lothar Altmann, Carl Bildt, Sonja Biserko, Dunja Blazevic, Bertram D. Braun, Erhard Busek, Helfried Carl, Carla Del Ponte, Slavenka Drakulic, Freimut Duve, Vedran Dzihic, Brigitte Ederer, Elisabeth Ellison, Jakob Finci, Joschka Fischer, Paolo Garonna, Vladimir Gligorov, Natasa Kandic, Sejla Kameric, Chris Keulemans, Christine von Kohl, Zeljko Komsic, Gregor Kössler, Milan Kucan, Almir Kurt, Gabriel Lansky, Paul Lowe, Tihomir Loza, Thomas Markert, Predrag Matvejevic, Stjepan Mesic, Boris Nemsic, Peter Neussl, Manfred Nowak, James C. O'Brien, Tanja Ostojic, Zoran Pajic, Zarko Papic, Alexander Petritz, Robert Pichler, Samir Plasto, Aaron Rhodes, Lord Robertson, Dimitrij Rupel, Javier Solana, Christophe Solioz, Cornelio Sommaruga, Herbert Stepic, Paul Stubbs, Goran Svilanovic, Hannes Swoboda, T. K. Vogel, Patrik-Paul Volf, Gottfried Wagner, Lojze Wieser, Jody Williams and Jean Ziegler.

Additional information is available on the CEIS homepage at <http://www.ceis-eu.org/publications/books/books.htm>.



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CONFERENCES

On 12 April 2007 the University of Genoa organized a well-attended seminar on Islam in the Balkans. Against the background of the modern history of Islam in the region, Christophe Solioz reviewed the evolution of Islam in Bosnia since 1878, focusing on its politicization as well as on the internal trends towards homogenization and diversification. The increased visibility of Islam in Bosnia and, above all, the recovery of the intellectual and cultural legacy specific to Bosnia's Muslims, demands a new approach that takes into account the fact that European Islam exists and has much to contribute to the integration of Islam in Europe.

11–12 June 2007: Christophe Solioz participated at the International Conference, "Economic and Social Development in Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Challenge in the Regional and European Context" organized in Sarajevo by the Austrian-French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe and the French Institute for International Relations. In his keynote address, Solioz addressed the need for a new 'big bang'. Considering Bosnia and Herzegovina, he suggested that a reframed and effective Office of the High Representative (OHR) — with a Bosnian Deputy High Representative to boost the partnership between 'internationals' and 'locals' — must now finish the job and make the country ready for EU membership. Bosnian politicians should be inspired by Slovakia's successful sprint to catch up with the rest of Central Europe in the post-Meciar years, and welcome Miroslav Lajčák as the last High Representative.

2 July 2007: Wolfgang Petritsch and Christophe Solioz participated in a UNECE seminar organized at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva, "The New Situation in South East Europe: Needs and Priorities for Economic Integration." The CEIS provided the seminar background: "Southeastern Europe Transformed: Achievements and Challenges." The key objective of this brainstorming seminar was to explore the needs and priorities for economic integration in SEE in the immediate future. The discussion focused on the new situation in the region after the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU and after the phasing out of the Stability Pact and the establishment of the Regional Co-operation Council.

POLICY BRIEF & WORKING PAPERS

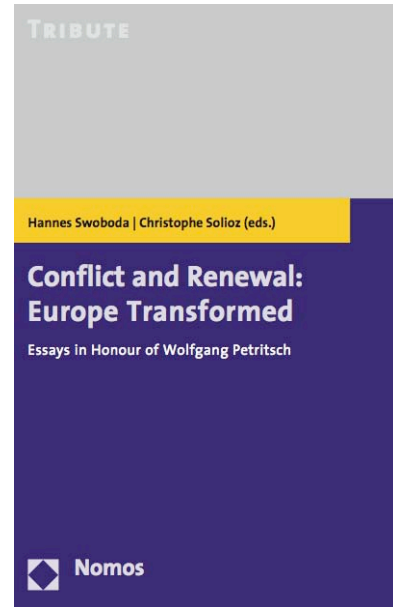
In its policy brief "OHR: Results First, Exit Later" — published on 24 January 2007 — the CEIS calls on the Peace Implementation Council, whose Steering Board met in Brussels on 26–27 February 2007 to reconsider the closure of the OHR, planned for June 2007. As recent events demonstrate, Bosnia still needs the OHR — but only an OHR that takes its core mandate seriously. The OHR needs to vigorously engage in the unfinished reform steps needed to pave the way for an association agreement with the EU.

CEIS Working Paper Series no. 01.2007, "Dilemmata im Prozess der 'Europäisierung' Bosniens" — written by Vedran Džihic — aims to demonstrate the use and misuse of 'Europe' in political discourse and to show how Bosnia's Europeanisation is being influenced by the manipulations of the term and the political symbol of 'Europe.' In particular, an emphasis is placed on the use of 'Europe' to consolidate and deepen the political power of distinct elites and as means to strengthen ethno-nationalistic politics.

In the second CEIS Working Paper in 2007 — "Politics from Below and 'Civil' Depoliticization: Civil Political Participation in Croatia" — Srđan Dvornik, a prominent Zagreb sociologist, examines the conditions, modes and scope of civic activism in post-independence Croatia. The paper assesses the extent to which active political participation has contributed to a more vibrant democracy in the country and stronger legally guaranteed freedoms. The analysis rests on the recognition that knowledge mainly originates from a participatory observation (or better still, from an observing participation), and on the ambition to develop a civic, participatory impact from below, to the benefit of democracy, freedom and social solidarity.

CEIS Working Paper Series no. 03.2007, "Next Steps for the OHR: Balancing Europeanization with Conflict Resolution" — written by Rory Domm — aims to demonstrate that without a political settlement of conflicting notions about the power and territorial integrity of the Bosnian state, the reforms championed by the international community constantly run the risk of being instrumentalized by nationalist political forces, slowing down Bosnia's progress towards EU membership. Thus, the solution requires a shift in the international community's behaviour towards support for constitutional reform: notably, that the OHR's mandate should be extended until an agreement is reached.

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