

Report about the Youth Workshop

Being Young In Europe
Our wishes, our opportunities, our future

29th April – 4th May 2004, Berlin/ Germany



Report about the Youth Workshop

“Being Young In Europe – Our wishes, our opportunities, our future”

which took place from April 29th to May 4th 2004 in Berlin/Germany

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Foreword

From April, 29th to May, 4th 15 young people from the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland and Sweden met in Berlin in occasion of the enlargement of the European Union. This meeting of “old” and “new” members of the EU called “Being young in Europe” was organized by a young association called Jugend bewegt Europa. The organizers invited young European students to discuss with them the future of the European Union, their expectations, hopes, aims and fears concerning the new, enlarged Union. During these five days those young people were really “living the European Union”: they learned a lot about the other countries and had controverse discussions about some important issues like the question of an European identity or the problems with giving the EU a constitution.

This brochure shall give an impression of the workshop “Being young in Europe”. It is written mainly by the participants. First the participants introduce themselves and their expectation towards the workshop. After that, they give a diary-like overview over the whole program and the results of workshops and discussions from their point of view.

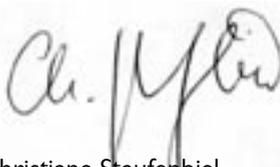
We hope this report on our workshop

is a good souvenir for the participants and gives an impression on the rich and interesting time that we had together. Those five days and the meeting with students from other countries showed that it is really worth building together the European Union.

Jugend bewegt Europa would like to thank for their financial support the members of parliament: Gesine Löttsch, Petra-Evelyne Merkel, Michael Roth, Angelika Schwall-Düren.

Thanks a lot to Mark Rackles, Robert Heinrich, Regine Vettters, Abgeordnetenhaus Berlin and Senatskanzlei Berlin.

This workshop was organized by Eva Strickmann, Jan Mechtel, Sandra Zimmermann, Monika Büning and Christiane Staufenbiel.



Christiane Staufenbiel

Chairwoman of “Jugend bewegt Europa”

Participants

UTA ACKERMANN

Germany

As a “culture and management”-student from Dresden/Germany, I came to take part in the workshop “Being Young in Europe” in order to broaden my view of the European Union together with other students from European countries. The time in Berlin was very exciting and, as a result, I can say that through the dialogue with certain political representatives and other workshop members, I acquired a deeper perspective of the EU and the opportunities/disadvantages it stands for.

For me, the European Union is on its best way to be more than just a trade union which members mostly share the same currency. Slowly, especially through intercultural exchanges and a more and more sensitized public sphere, a European identity is created – a process which alludes to (or is accompanied by) the establishment of a European Constitution. This leads, idealistically, to a State Union that is deeply linked in various aspects but still insists on the preservation of the cultural heritage of its member states.



MYLENE DESCOMBRIS

France

I’m 20 years old. I am studying English in Sweden this year and I would like to become a French teacher abroad. It was my first trip to Germany, I learned a lot, firstly about the country and its culture, and also concerning Europe.

Concerning my European point of view, I am a bit doubtful. Europe has a lot of new challenges, some will be hard to accomplish, but I am optimistic. I hope it won’t be only economic relationships between all these countries, but also cultural ones



AGNIESZKA GERWATOWSKA

Poland

I come from a small town, but at the moment I live in Warsaw where I study at the Institute of English Studies at the University of Warsaw. I also work for the Students’ Union and I cooperate with the Board of the Union. My task is to organise the cooperation between the university and theatres in Warsaw and additionally I deal with answering e-mails from abroad.



JOCHEN GÖSSMANN

Germany

Worked as journalist for some years and is going to attend a teacher's seminar in a few weeks.



economics in Paris.

ANNE LEMPENS

Germany

Age 21, studying Biochemistry.



I am a volleyball loving, singing, blonde and blunt biochemist, who loves the beach, the ocean, summer and spring time. One thing I enjoy the most is traveling and getting to know different cultures.

TIPHAINE GUILLARD

France

I'm 22 years old and studying at the Institute of Political Sciences in Lille.



I've never been aware of my feelings and responsibilities towards Europe until the seminar "Being Young in Europe". I hope that we will knit together in the future and that more people become aware of their European identity and its chances.

It's quite hard to define oneself in a few words, but I would say that I'm a positive person and volunteer. The bad features of myself are my disorganisation and carelessness. I like dancing, listening to music, going out with my friends and meeting new people!

What I associate with Europe is the future. Even if it's the present as well, I think that Europe is going to be developed more and more. Europe for me is also something which is good for us if it is done in the right way. And for sure, it shouldn't deal only with economy!

CHLOÉ MOITIÉ

France

Student at the Institute for Political Science (IEP) in Bordeaux, at the moment Erasmus student in Gothenburg, Sweden.



SARRA HEDHLI

France

24 years old, studying



Youth Workshop in Berlin (April 30th to May 4th 2004)

JACOB REINERT

Sweden

23 years old, studying economics in Gothenburg.



IVA VELHARTICKA

Czech Republic

I'm 25 years old and studying at the university of Ostrava at the faculty of Art – Business German. In my life I'd like to improve my foreign languages and to use them in my work. I'd like to work in the economic field and I think it is very important to work together with other countries from Europe to improve our economic relations.



KATHARINA REISCH

Germany

22 years old, studying business administration in Dresden.



Relaxing in front of the Berliner Dom



Windy weather on top of the Reichstag

Program

Thursday, April 29 th	Friday, April 30 th	Saturday, May 1 st
	9.00 Visit in the German Bundestag, meeting with Gesine Löttsch (Member of Parliament)	9.00 1 st workshop: Learning and Working in the EU
	11.00 Guided tour in the city centre of Berlin	
	13.00 “Welcome party” for the new members of the EU on the Pariser Platz	13.00 2 nd workshop: European Democracy
	16.00 Discussion with Marc Rackles (Member of the Berlin Senate)	
18.00 Arrival, dinner, welcome and presentation of the program	20.00 Berlin Night Life / Celebration of EU-Enlargement on Pariser Platz	20.30 Boat-trip on the Spree with students from Eastern Europe

Sunday, May 2nd	Monday, May 3rd	Tuesday, May 4th
	10.00 Meeting with Robert Heinrich (Die Grünen), Presentation of the Campaign of the Green Party for the European Election	9.00 Breakfast and depart
11.00 3 rd Workshop: European Citizenship		
14.00 Panel discussion in the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (“Europe’s architecture after the enlargement”)	14.00 Meeting with Regina Vettters (Doctoral candidate), Presentation of her thesis about European identity and European public sphere	
	16.00 Review and evaluation, final discussion	
20.00 Movie “L’auberge espagnole”	20.00 Party with “Jugend bewegt Europa”	

Report

Welcome evening

by Anne Lempens

Not knowing what to expect from the seminar I arrived in Berlin. Many different things were going through my head. Who is going to be at the apartment. Where will I stay, what will we do? Who else is going to attend the seminar and will we get along? More or less it was a challenge and I was very excited. A new place even though it was still Germany and 21 people I've never met or talked to before.

I finally found the right house and Christiane welcomed me at the door of her apartment. Most of the students had already arrived. Some went sightseeing in Berlin and others prepared dinner in the kitchen. Since I was very hungry, I figured helping all these people would speed up the cooking process. I never thought that seven people would be able to cook Chinese food together successfully. But it worked out and it was very delicious. On and on all the other participants arrived at the apartment. Everyone was very friendly and introduced himself. All of us had dinner in the living room and at that time of the day we were still very shy.

After dinner Christiane and Eva finally

welcomed all of us officially and we started the seminar with a name-learning-game. That actually was quite a challenge. After that we were able to remember most of the names, but we still didn't know much about the persons themselves. So each of us got a balloon and wrote special interests or hobbies on them. All of the balloons were mixed. Then everyone grabbed a balloon and tried to find the right person to it. We started to get to know each other and everybody was in a good mood. Later we talked about our expectations towards the seminar and the schedule of the following days. Christiane and Eva also introduced the organization "Jugend bewegt Europa".

Most of the participants were very exhausted by that time of the night. Therefore we chatted a little bit and went to bed quite early that night (in comparison to the other nights).

Meeting with Gesine Loetzsch (Member of Parliament) in the German Bundestag

by Jochen Gößmann

The visit at the Reichstag started with a nice surprise. On our way to the Paul-Loebe-Building we met Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. He was on his way from the Kanzleramt to the Reichstag giving interviews to some journalists. Thus we

got a glimpse of high politics.

At the Paul-Loebe-Haus, we were welcomed by the assistant of the member of the parliament Gesine Löttsch (PDS, elected in Berlin). He told us a lot about the work of the members of the parliament and about some issues that were treated in the German Parliament in that time. After this introduction we met Mrs Löttsch. She was very busy because of a celebration ceremony in occasion of the EU-enlargement that morning where she had to hold a speech.

Her assistant showed us the impressive building of the Reichstag that is connected by a tunnel with the Paul-Loebe-Building. Here the members of the parliament have their offices. He explained



A corridor under the Reichstag building

some facts of the history of the Reichstag and some of the art pieces that are presented in the Reichstag. We didn't have tickets to join the assembly in the Bundestag, but from the famous roof of the Reichstag we saw some well known politicians in the assembly hall. Besides we had a very impressive view from the top of the building. Although it was quite windy we enjoyed very much the scenic overview of the city of Berlin.

Guided tour through the city centre of Berlin

by Sarra Hedhli

After visiting the Reichstag, we joined a dynamic guide for a two-hour tour around the historical Berlin. We passed along a park which was devastated after the war because of the use of wood for heating by the Berliners and which was now full of flowers. We went along the former wall up the Brandenburger Tor, symbol of German separation and reunification, once taken by Napoleon and now surely the city's most famous building.

From Pariser Platz and the ambassies we went down the Unter den Linden av-

venue, Berlin's most beautiful avenue. We stopped shortly to see the Humboldt University where Karl Marx and Albert Einstein have studied.

In front of the university, we saw the Bebelplatz, a place of changing fortunes, which had been the focal point for the book burning process staged by the Nazis. This event has been commemorated by the monument designed by Micha Ullmann, which consists of an underground library with empty shelves and which can be seen through a transparent plastic window set into the ground. Close to the Bebelplatz, there was St Hedwigs Kathedrale, the most important Roman Catholic ecclesiastical building of the city. A sign of the religious tolerance of Friedrich II in Prussia.

Further on the Avenue, we stopped at the Central Memorial of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Victims of War and Tyranny“. The center of the chamber is now occupied by the enlarged and controversial sculpture “Mother with dead son“ by Käthe Kollwitz.

We walked down the city and passed the parliament of Berlin, then we went along the former wall and stopped by the former Gestapo (the Nazis' secret service) headquarter site where an ex-

hibition is held “topography of terror“, a document of the terror of the Third Reich.

We went to the Berlin cathedral, which is the former court cathedral of Prussia's royal family, the Hohenzollern. With a sumptuously ornamented, domed building inspired by the Italian High Renaissance style, the cathedral looks catholic, but actually is protestant. Around this place, there is a library and the former parliament of the East Berlin side which is nowadays a museum. From there we took the bus and went back to the meeting point on Unter den Linden avenue.

Discussion with Marc Rackles in the Berlin Abgeordnetenhaus

by Jochen Gößmann

Marc Rackles is the representative of the senate of Berlin for European Affairs. It is his job to represent the interests of the city of Berlin in Brussels. One of his major tasks is to help to implement European Law in Berlin and to influence the law proposals before they are released. Thus, he links the EU-Commission and the senate of Berlin.

Rackles focused his lecture on the release of the European constitution and on the election to the European Parliament on June 13th. “The 450 million



In discussion with Marc Rackles

people living in the 25 member states of the European Union speak 20 different languages”, Rackles stated in order to outline the complexity of the Union.

He strongly favours the release of the constitution. The main goals are to strengthen the democracy and the European institutions and to ease the process of decision-making. Rackles considers the implementation of a European Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the introduction of the principle of majority in the law-making process as the essentials of the constitution. Moreover, he favors the strengthening of the role of the European Parliament and the extending of the legislation of the European Presidency from what is today only six months.

The agenda of the political debate on Europe is presently dominated by a pro-

posal by the British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Blair suggested that the British decide on the release of the European constitution by a referendum.

With regard to the national election in Britain in 2005, Rackles supposed that Blair made this proposal of election-tactical reasons. Rackles does not believe that a referendum on the consti-

tution in Britain would mean that Germany should also hold a referendum on the constitution. “The German constitution would have to be changed in this case”, Rackles said. In general, Rackles believes that referenda slow down and weaken the process of European integration. Taking into consideration a referendum on the constitution in Germany, this would mean that the accession of Turkey to the Union might also become the topic of a referendum.

However, Rackles also gave some arguments in favour of holding referenda: “The European Union would get more media coverage because the people would want to know what they can vote for and against. This would strengthen the awareness of the people for the Union.” He made the complaint that many people “are simply not interested in the

topic of Europe. Many decisions are made without public debate and people wake up too late when they notice that a law, which is being introduced, does not really suit them.”

Celebration of the enlargement in front of the Brandenburger Tor

by Uta Ackermann

After we had dinner together at a restaurant close to the Checkpoint Charlie, everyone enjoyed some hours of free time after the busy day. Then we were supposed to meet again at 10 p.m. at a bar named “Aufsturz” – a typical student-kind-of-place. We had a good time talking and drinking before some of us went home to catch some sleep. The rest headed for the Brandenburger Tor where fireworks and a music program were to take place. Unfortunately, the fireworks could only be seen on a screen, but besides, the atmosphere was nice and there were a lot of people waiting for the ten new member states to join the European Union at midnight. Many of them were sitting on the Pariser Platz drinking or waiting in line to get some food...

Most of us were wandering from booth to booth to check out the presentations of the new members, or we joined the team of “Jugend bewegt Europa” at

their stand.

At 12 p.m., the new members were welcomed by an entertainer on stage and people were dancing traditional waltz. The fireworks, actually taking place at the Gendarmenmarkt, could only be seen on a screen. Then, a Czech band was playing a mixture of folk and rock – this was when a slight feeling of “celebrating-together” developed... we were dancing together with other young people from Eastern Europe and having a wonderful time. Of course, as it got close to 1 a.m., the music stopped and pretty fast the crowd went home. Although the evening wasn’t what most of us had expected, I assume that we all had fun and properly celebrated the enlargement of the EU.

1st Workshop: Working and learning in the European Union

by Iva Velharticka

First of all we’ve been given a questionnaire to the most tickling problems, which involve the issue of working in the member states of EU for the people of the new member states.

In the first part of the workshop the people presented us a range of institutions, which deal with scholarships and other things in the European Union. We’ve been told what to do if we want

to go to another country to study or to work. There are some institutions, that aim at infants or the primary schools and other institutions that aim at universities and high schools.

In the second part of the workshop we made three or four groups, in which we worked out some problems. We discussed these problems in our group of three people and, at the end, we presented our results. Some of the problems were very difficult to discuss in one group only with three people because it turned out to be better to see what the whole group had to say to these problems.

At the end of the workshop there was a discussion in the whole group, in which we discussed the problems from the questionnaire such as: the labor market, the seven years period that the new

member states have to undergo, and so on...

It was interesting to see what the people from different European countries had to say to those problems.

2nd workshop: Europe and Democracy

by Chloé Moitié

During this workshop we tried to focus on the European parliament, its composition and tasks and the main stakes about it, especially when it comes to the actual work with so many political parties.

We were given some paper about the European parliament, which is the most democratic institution since its members are elected by the European citizens. We wanted to understand how such institution can cope with so many



During a workshop

countries and political tendencies which have to be represented. Our group was split in different sub-groups and each had to focus on one political group of the parliament. Actually, national parties have created coalitions according to their political tendency.

There are currently seven political groups: European

People's Party (christian democrat); Party of European Socialist; European liberal, democrat and reformist party; European United Left/Nordic Greens Left; Greens/European free alliance; Union for Europe of Nations; Europe of democracies and diversity; non attached. Before voting the coalitions can discuss about their position to adopt on a special issue according to their political view. Of course, this system simplifies the functioning of the parliament.

Then, we started talking about the idea of a real European party. We knew and also had the explanation later because of a conference by the responsible of the European campaign for the Greens, that this party is actually the only one to present itself as a European party for the next election. But, in spite of this, we concluded our discussion with the fact that, even if the idea seemed to be good, it is actually difficult to do it in that way. Firstly it then needs more money and creates difficulties to finance these parties, and secondly it would also mean more parties (national ones and european ones) which can be kind of dangerous due to the fact that citizens could get lost... it is already difficult to understand the European institutions, how they work, their role and so on, and if citizens have to choose between new parties it can be difficult.

But maybe it is just a question of time, it is too early and will come later.

This discussion has been really interesting, especially when we got to know how low the vote rates for European elections (people hardly know the name of their European deputy) actually are and the fact that European political system is reproached for its lack of democracy. It is clear that the situation has to (and will) evolve because it is quite "messy" (and it will get more complicated with the integration of parties from the new european countries). And it also has to be clearer for the voters since it is the best way for them to develop their European citizenship. If it is too complicated they won't feel concerned by European elections and Europe in general and this is a big risk.

As far as I'm concerned, I think I needed this workshop to learn about the organization of parties in the Parliament and hear about different opinions when it comes to the idea of European parties. I think I know more about it now and it might help me since the next European election is really close now!

Boat trip on the Spree river

by Jochen Gößmann

The organisers of another conference on the enlargement of the EU,

which took place at the same time as our workshop, invited us for a boat trip on the Spree river on Saturday night. With about 150 young people from Germany, Croatia, Romania, Poland and Finland we had a fancy party on a boat with music, dancing and litres of beer. The view from the boat of the illuminated buildings like the Berliner Dom, the Museumsinsel and the Reichstag was spectacular and we had a lovely spring evening on the boat. The stars were watching us while we enjoyed the occasion to get to know the city from the waters of the Spree river.

3rd Workshop: European citizenship

by Tiphaine Guillard

Eva started the workshop in asking us the questions: “What does citizenship mean?”, “What is the difference between citizenship and nationality?”. The first answer was that citizenship is linked with rights and duties you have to fulfil. Then, it was said that the idea of nationality is more a feeling. A nation is a group of people who decide to live together and to build something together. It seemed quite difficult to draw a clear line between both. Today, nationality and citizenship are very close to each other. The difference made more sense in the 19th century at the time when there was a distinction within the na-

tion between citizens and non-citizens. The citizenship was only given to rich or reputed men. So, there was a difference between nationality, which you could get easier, and the citizenship.

Then, we spoke about the European citizenship. People get the European citizenship because they have the citizenship of one of the countries of the European Union. It gives the right to vote for the deputies in the European parliament. It also gives the right to European citizens, who don’t live in their own country, to vote at the local level. And it gives also the right to appeal at the European courts.

Then, we tried to look at the grounds of the European citizenship in defining what we think the European identity is. Everybody was first supposed to write his or her first ideas down, and then everything was put together. What we found out were: territory, history, democracy, culture, religious background and mutual influences (Judeo-Christianity), social matters in politics, human rights, free trade, currency, common aims, multiculturalism, no boundaries, position in the world/ relationship with the USA, individualism.

But, during the debate, a question was raised: Isn’t it a mere construction on paper? These answers may seem to be

too broad to constitute any good definition. What is the importance of the territory, if we are thinking about the integration of Turkey? Moreover unanimity has not been reached among the European countries regarding the Iraq war. And, what does a European culture really mean? If you look at the Swedish society and that of the Spanish one for example, it seems like the common points are quite few.

But it was also said that European identity is being built and diversity should not be a problem. What is important is not to agree on every topic but to agree on finding an agreement.

Panel Discussion at Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation

by Jochen Gößmann

The topic of the panel discussion at the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung was “Europe’s Architecture after the Enlargement”.

The chairman was Christoph Linden, Deputy General Secretary of the European Movement in Germany. He discussed with

- Dr. Annelly Ute Gabanyi from Romania, member of the foundation “Policy and Science” in Berlin,
- Dr. Wim van Meurs, Senior Research

Fellow at the Center for Applied Policy Research at the University of Munich,

- Roland Freudenstein, head of the Foreign and European Policy Department of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation.

Students from Croatia, Romania, Poland, Germany, France, Czech Republic and Sweden were in the audience.

The discussion focused on the possibly following enlargement after the enlargement.

Where will the borders of the European Union be in future? Which countries will be granted the accession to the “Club of Europe”?

Bulgaria? Romania? Croatia? Macedonia? Serbia? Belorussia? Ukraine? Moldova? Libya? Turkey? Georgia? Israel? Marocco?

While Bulgaria and Romania were already granted the status as a candidate and the negotiations on the accession of Turkey will begin in December 2004, countries such as Croatia, Moldova and the Ukraine, which are geographically located in Europe, are still waiting to be invited to negotiations. Particularly in Romania and Croatia, a non-official and “silent” competition about the point of time when the countries may join broke

out. Romanians fear that their accession will be delayed until Croatia will also be ready to join. While Guenther Verheugen, EU-Commissioner of the European enlargement, gave all countries from the “East Balkan” a joining perspective, the Croatians now hope that they also belong to the East and not the West Balkan. However, Verheugen did not define what he means by the term “East Balkan”.

Wim van Meurs pointed out that the President of Georgia, which is geographically located in Asia, recently declared that his country wishes to join the European Union. The Government of the Republic of Moldova just appointed an officer who is in charge of the joining perspective of the country.

The process of integration in Europe is still fluent and dynamic. The political debate presently focuses on the question: Which is the best way to spread prosperity among as many European people as possible?

Movie “L’auberge Espagnole”

by Agnieszka Gerwatowska

At that moment we all were all very tired; some of us were literally falling asleep. Still we were all fighting against the enormous desire to close the eyes... just for a second of course. A marvelous

dinner turned out to be a great help indeed. We came back to University to see the movie *L’auberge espagnole*. The film was in French but fortunately had English subtitles so that even those of us who cannot speak French were able to follow the story. I had not seen the movie before and I was very positively surprised. The story about a French exchange student coming to study in Spain turned out to be a brilliant comment to our workshops. All the problems we had mentioned before in our discussion appeared there. The student had to deal not only with the language difficulties but also with all the red tape. We could see all the areas connected with the exchange programs, which still have to be improved. *L’auberge espagnole* was a nice conclusion to finish our workshops with.

Presentation about the European election campaign of the Green Party

by Agnieszka Gerwatowska

After breakfast we went to the Rotes Rathaus for a meeting with Robert Heinrich who is the manager of the campaign of the German green party at the Election to the European Parliament in June. Heinrich worried about “a triple deficit” the German parties are facing in the campaign. They lack attention, con-

flict and money. "In Germany, more or less, we are all pro-integration," he said. As a result there is no conflict between the parties and consequently their debates get hardly any attention. The situation differs e.g. in Great Britain where there is a clear cleavage between Euro-phorics and Euro-sceptics. Heinrich claimed that the Greens are the only German party which actually attempts a European campaign – "We are the Europe-Party in Germany." He sees this campaign strategy as a sort of investment. Today the Greens in Germany are in a fairly comfortable situation meaning that in the German party system the Greens are well established so that even a poor result in the election of the European Parliament would not matter too much. "With this strategy we are the pioneers. It will pay at the next elections and in future in general." He stressed that the Green parties all over Europe differ in size, strength and budget. His party claims to stand for a policy of accountability and transparency. "We are in favor of giving Turkey a joining-perspective," Heinrich said. The party wants a further enlargement of the Union. "Europe stands for decades of prosperity," Heinrich stated. The Greens are also for one single European citizenship by which they mean the same rights for all the citizens of Europe

e.g. no visas to the US.

On the whole the meeting was very interesting. Of course Robert Heinrich is a politician and therefore one must critically approach his statements. Still the idea of one European election campaign seems clever and maybe in future we will see more campaigns like that.

Regine Vetter's presentation about European identities

by Mylene Descombris

First she distinguished four different models of identity.

- 1) A competing model between national and European identities
- 2) A concentric circle model (from Berlin, Germany and Europe to the world)
- 3) A cross-cutting model in which Christians, Germans, Europeans and Turkish are mixed.
- 4) A marble cake model in which different individual identities are mixed.

Then we tried to find out different components of the European identity. Here are the most important ones:

- Cultures and values: freedom, democracy, equality, human rights...
- History and myths: Charlemagne, World Wars

- Common symbols: flag (its meaning is not well known – it represents the perfection, the universality of the circular shape), currency, European Day (9th of May)
- Language, religion, demarcation against the other through foreign policy, ethnic similarities...

In a third part we talked about the public sphere. Identity, democracy and public sphere are interdependent. The stronger the social cohesion is, the more likely it will be to have general and favorable goals. More communication will lead to a greater solidarity. Yet, there is a public sphere deficit, that is to say people, especially young people, are not well informed. As a consequence, they are not involved in the European construction.

We can distinguish two models of public sphere:

- The independent European public sphere which is emerging
- The Europeanization of the national public sphere in which European topics would be brought up as central themes in the media.

However it is still not the case. In addition to problems of languages, transports, there is no powerful opposition to balance the Council of Ministers. As a result, there are no media debates.

There are no controversy, no possibilities of sanction... the public stays outside, decisions are only taken by “grey suits“. Nevertheless, they made some efforts, for instance with the Lacken Declaration, or the common constitution.

Review and evaluation

by Uta Ackermann

As it is common for workshop sessions, there has been a review and evaluation-time for “Being Young in Europe“. On our last day together, we were able to share our impressions and experiences from the past days. We sat down with a cup of coffee each and enjoyed our last meeting together.

At first, the program was reviewed by the organization team (Eva & Christiane) and we were to put down positive and negative aspects of it. Those aspects concerned particular aspects of the program and furthermore the organization in general. Everyone had the chance to present his or her thoughts to the others and a vivid discussion started which was especially interesting for the organization staff in order to improve similar workshops in the future.

All in all, “Being Young in Europe“ was evaluated very positively and each participant had to admit that he or

she has really benefited from the days spent together. Finally, each of us was encouraged to write a brief report of our experiences in Berlin. In the end, a collection of email-addresses was distributed, so that we are able to keep in touch.

Party with “Jugend bewegt Europa”

by Tiphaine Guillard

For the last evening, “Jugend bewegt Europa“ organized a party. After the review and evaluation, some stayed at Christiane’s place to prepare salad and the others went to Michael’s place. There was a lot of food there (sausages, meat bowls, and nice bread with the green sauce inside) and some beer of course! It was really nice. Everybody was more relaxed! We offered choco-

late to Christiane and Eva who were such nice organizers!

But it was also the time of good bye! Some had already left before the party like Anne and Jacob. Then it was the turn of Kathrina. But some stayed until the end and left the day after! I guess that we all will keep a very good memory of this last party!



Enjoying the last evening

