

CLENAD SURVEY, in association with University of Agder, Kristiansand (Norway)

We are happy to announce that CLENAD is participating in a scientific research project entitled: 'Micro-Processes of Integration: Theory and Evidence from a European Administrative Space in Transformation'. While part of a larger academic endeavour by a Norwegian research team, this project provides a unique opportunity for us to gain valuable information about how you view your secondment, which will, ultimately, help us to represent you to the best of our abilities.

Specifically, a survey questionnaire, constructed jointly by the Norwegian research team and CLENAD, will be sent to all our members as an e-mail link on 5th January 2011. The survey itself will take maximum 20 minutes to complete, and addresses your personal perceptions of your secondment and daily work, post-secondment plans and some general questions regarding your educational background.

All the usual precautions will be taken to safeguard full confidentiality of the data, as well as the anonymity of the survey's respondents in the final report. Upon the completion of the project on 31 December 2013, the data file itself will be fully anonymised.

This is the first time that such a systematic and fully-comprehensive evaluation of your views on your secondment can be carried out. Although participation is obviously voluntary, we strongly encourage you all to take part and invest 20 minutes of your time. Besides having important academic value, the resulting information will allow us to represent you even better.

INTERVIEW with:

Marga Peeters, CLENAD The Netherlands

Marga Peeters is an Expert National Détaché at the European Commission. Before moving to the Commission in December 2006 she worked at the Central Bank of Albania in Tirana as an IMF resident monetary policy advisor, and from 1997-2004 at the Dutch Central Bank. Since December 2007 she is a board member of the Dutch END network. On November 7th she successfully ran the New York marathon for the second time in her life.

Marga, thank you for accepting our invitation for an interview. Training for a marathon and working at the Commission, do you find this a good combination of daily activities? Yes, I started running when I started working in Brussels. Working in Brussels is very entertaining, I have an extremely interesting job, but I found that I needed some more physical exercise. Spending each evening late in the office made me feel physically slow, so I did some jogging in order to be able to run the 20 km of Brussels. The marathon of New York was my objective thereafter. **You are almost four years working as an END at the DG Economic and Financial Affairs. The economy reached in this period the trough of the economic cycle, but are we recovering again?** There are many leading indicators pointing in a positive direction, for a multitude of EU countries. But I am working in the so-called "international" department of DG ECFIN and concerned with countries that are neighbours of the EU: the countries of the former Soviet Union countries, Central Asia, the Middle-East and North Africa. Most of these countries are in transition. In particular the North-African countries are far less financially integrated into the world economy. Therefore they remained quite sheltered from the global financial crisis that started hitting the EU in 2008. Others, such as the Ukraine, really faced tough weather but are now rapidly recovering. **You are an END board member. Why is the Dutch END-network in Brussels so active?** We find it crucial to get to know each other in order to exchange information efficiently. Moreover, the EU Permanent Representation strongly supports us. The END-network stimulates the



Meb Keflezighi, who won the New York marathon last year in only 2 hours and 8 minutes, chasing Marga Peeters. This year he was number 6...

debate on topical Dutch and EU policies and bridges the distance between the Dutch government and the EU institutions. We, as the board of this network, regularly invite high-level speakers such as Dutch ministers and all Dutch ENDS. At such occasions, the speaker gives an introduction and we then have Q&A rounds (formal part) and thereafter we have a good drink and discuss in greater depth (informal part). The END-network counts 90 ENDS and, because of these events, we know each other quite well. We facilitate the access to information whenever needed. Each year we organise up to 10 events for our ENDS. We are very grateful to the Dutch PR that we can do this. **What do you think of CLENAD?** I think that it is great that there is a network for all ENDS in Brussels! We have common interests and similar labour conditions. **How do you see your future career? Will you return to the Netherlands or will you remain in the catacombs of the EU institutions?** I like

to work on EU policies, as this is thinking in a broad sense, in particular when working at the international directorate of DG ECFIN. But every temporary contract comes to an end. What I really would like to do most, is using the broad experiences that I have gained in my four year term here in my future career, at least in the short-term, and to dive deeper on some subjects. We will see whether I can fulfil this dream. Besides running another marathon this is currently my main objective.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL EVENTS

RUGBY The rugby season is at full pace, there are several clubs in Bruxelles, a couple of which have a big international participation, and include touch rugby squads and female teams. If you are interested to see some amateur rugby matches look for the Bruxelles Celtics (<http://brusselsceltic.com/site/>) and the Bruxelles Barbarians (www.brusselsbarbarians.com)

Christmas in Bruxelles for the ones who stay in Bruxelles for the Christmas break, the city offers a magic atmosphere, Christmas markets and children's playgrounds. Place St. Catherine during this season is amazing. For planned activities and events visit: www.plaisirsdhiver.be

NOT JUST BRUXELLES

Seville and the progress, not just toros and flamenco Few things are as beautiful as contrasting things going well together. Seville shows off deeply rooted traditions and an innovation that pushes the society forward. In this place, the Institute for Prospective Technological Studies 'IPTS' is settled and fits at perfection since 1994. The IPTS is one of the seven institutes of the Joint Research Centre that promotes and enables a better understanding of the links between technology, economy and society, as stated in its mission statement. The typical JRC policy-making support is performed at IPTS in a socio-economic and a technological dimension. This is called 'techno-economics' and consists of carrying out policy option analyses, policy impact assessments, socio-economic analyses of new technologies and managing consensus-building and information exchange among policy-makers and stakeholders ('bureau services'). The fields of activity are described by the self-explanatory unit names within the IPTS: Economics of Climate Change, Energy and Transport Unit, Knowledge for Growth (of the Union), Information (and Communication Technologies) Society, Agrilife, and Sustainable Consumption and Production. A young and highly educated work force proudly pushes the future-oriented movement while enjoying the happy atmosphere of the city. The people of Seville are enormously proud of their traditions and their cultural identity. Social life rotates around the "Holy

Week", the spring fair 'Feria de Abril' and the 'Rocio' pilgrimage. By contrast, the architecture and the economy, after the modernistic start-up given by the 1992 World Exhibition, keep evolving through a steady modernisation of structures and services. However, the city is bright enough with its own beauty. The people are happy enough with their laid-back attitude and their predisposition to socialise and enjoy life. In Seville, everybody is warmly welcomed and given space to enjoy life. If you don't mind a bit of extra heat in the long summers, but you do enjoy the colours of the landscape, the warmth of the people and the countless cultural activities, you might consider a longer stay at IPTS. At least three of the seven areas of the JRC new policy directly involve the IPTS activities. Let the interdisciplinary approach of the EU working policy bring you to Seville, where tradition and modernity are joined.

Note of the Editor: Farewell

Dear colleagues, after three and half years at the Commission I'm returning back home for a new assignment at my employer of origin. I will be at the International relationship unit of ENEA, the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, with headquarters in Rome, Italy. www.enea.it. It is an exciting challenge and it demonstrates the attention of my employer in the relocation and valorisation of the seconded experts we talk about so often. Having said that, and although I'm going back to my beloved Rome, I must admit it's a pity to leave Bruxelles. The experience has been excellent in terms of personal and professional life - I will leave here many friends. Among many satisfactions it remains the belonging of a nice group of friends and colleagues in the CLENAD, international and Italy. Good luck for next year.

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Domenico

In this issue:

Domenico De Martinis ENV, Paolo Montobbio JRC Sevilla, Matthew Snoding TAXUD. Interview with Marga Peeters ECFIN.

Would you like to contribute to the next issue?

Please contact us!! www.clenad.eu





And finally, a Christmas message from the President

I would like to wish you all a pleasant Christmas, and all the best in the New Year. 2010. I would also like to thank those who have been so active and supportive over 2010, both in CLENAD International and in the National Sections. In particular I would like to thank Hans Meijer and Domenico De Martinis, both of whom have demonstrated infectious enthusiasm, together with a professional and able attitude, and have made my job as President much easier. I wish them the best of luck in their new enterprises, and hope that our paths will cross again.

Lastly, a little reminder of the chosen charities for this year's CLENAD Charity drive - there is still time to donate over the holiday period!

Peluche (Brussels) Peluche, an organisation based on volunteers and donations, Peluche has since 1991, helped children living in shelters to take on independent, responsible and fulfilled adult lives. They work with up to 450 children each year aged 3 to 18.

Details: ASBL Peluche, Rue du marteau, 19, 1000 Bruxelles: Account number: BE86 4264 1261 6150

ASTI (Luxembourg) ASTI is one of the Duchy's best known charities. Since 1979 ASTI has worked to support equal rights and integration of immigrants and refugees into Luxembourgish society. ASTI works with both children and adults who have recently arrived in Luxembourg and relies solely on donations. Some of its other activities include a festival to showcase what immigrants add to local society and education materials for schools.

Details **ASTI**, Bank: CCPL. Account number: ASTI, LU44 1111 0652 9615 0000

Remember to mark your payments "Experts against poverty", and many thanks to those of you who have donated already - we have raised over €1,300 for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Merry Christmas!

**Matthew Snoding
President, CLENAD International**

