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Kölner Gymnasial- und
Stiftungsfonds

Excursion and Simulation Game:

“Golden Passes – EU-Citizenship for sale? Compatibility of marketization of (national) EU Citizenship with EU Law”

PROTEUS 2023

Brussels, 22-25 May 2023

Final Report

Program of the PROTEUS-Seminar 2023

Monday, 22. May 2023	
07:15	Meeting at Cologne Central Station <i>(Entrance hall, from the side of the cathedral)</i>
07:42 – 9:35	Journey from Cologne to Brussels (Midi)
10:30 – 11:30	Arrival at the Hotel: Disposal of luggage; Potential Check-In; Small break
12:00– 13:30	Visit at the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)
14:00 – 16:00	Visit of the Permanent Representation of Turkey to European Union
17:00 – 18:00	Visit of the European Parliament with Axel Voss (MEP)
18:00 -	Check In

Tuesday, 23. May 2023	
09:00 – 12:30	Visit of the European Commission
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break; Time to explore the City
15:00 – 17:00	Visit of the European Council
17:15 – 17:30	End of Tuesday's Program

Wednesday, 24. May 2023	
09:00 – 12:00	Welcome; Speech by Prof. Hobe; Start of the Moot Court
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break
13:00 – 17:00	Moot Court Continuation
17:15 – 17:30	End of Wednesday's Program

Thursday, 25. May 2023	
09:30 – 10:00	Presentation by a TEPSA representative
10:00 – 12:30	Continuation of the Moot Court; Results
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:15	Moot Court: Results and Prizes
14:40 – 16:00	Visit of the Auswärtiges Amt
16:15 – 18:15	Break
18:25 – 20:18	Return from Brussels (Midi) to Cologne

PROTEUS 2023

The interdisciplinary and international seminar PROTEUS, funded by the Kölner Gymnasial- und Stiftungsfonds, was conducted during the summer semester of 2023. This captivating seminar, focused on the law and politics of the European Union, provided students with a comprehensive understanding of current European affairs. The seminar reached its culmination with an exhilarating excursion to Brussels, offering the students an immersive experience within the key institutions of the European Union (EU). Moreover, the students had the unique opportunity to actively participate in a stimulating Moot Court session centered around the thought-provoking topic of "Golden Passes – EU-Citizenship for sale? Compatibility of marketization of (national) EU Citizenship with EU Law." A group of MA students from the Turkish-German University also joined the Brussels excursion, enriching the overall academic atmosphere.

Throughout the seminar, the students were exposed to a variety of enlightening lectures delivered by esteemed professors such as Prof. Stephan Hobe and Prof. Wolfgang Wessels, as well as experts from other renowned universities. These lectures provided valuable insights and fostered intellectual discourse. In addition to the lectures, the students organized themselves into small groups, collaboratively preparing papers to enhance their engagement and preparation for the subsequent moot court.

The seminar itself was meticulously organized in an interdisciplinary manner. The Institute of Aviation Law, Space Law, and Cyberlaw under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dr. h.c. Stephan Hobe, and the Centre for Turkey and EU Studies (CETEUS), led by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels, worked closely in synergy to orchestrate the seminar's activities seamlessly. Each year, the responsibility of directing the seminar alternates between the two institutes, and this year, it was under the guidance of the Institute of Aviation Law, Space Law, and Cyberlaw.

Introduction and Online Lectures

On 06.04., all students together with Ms Soydan, Mr Althoff and Prof. Hobe met at the university for an introductory session. During this session, the seminar and its history were explained in more detail, the topic was explained and finally the groups were divided. Next, the PROTEUS students attended an online lecture by Ralf Kanitz at the TGU. During this seminar, topics related to EU citizenship and the workings of the European Court of Justice were studied in more detail.

Prof. Wessels gave the last preparatory lesson. He explained to the students the political science perspective on the working methods of the European Court of Justice in general and dealt with the case itself. In addition to these lessons, this time was marked by the individual work of the groups, which served to prepare their pleadings.

In the week before the excursion, the entire seminar came together once again. Final questions regarding the upcoming trip were clarified and Ms. Soydan explained the concept of the moot court to the students in detail.

Cooperation with the Turkish German University

In the framework of the cooperation with the Turkish-German University, European and International Affairs master's students enthusiastically joined the excursion to Brussels and actively participated in the moot court. This collaboration facilitated an enriching exchange of knowledge and perspectives, showcasing the commitment of both institutions to foster a strong academic bond. The students from the Turkish-German University seamlessly integrated into the interdisciplinary seminar and contributed their unique insights, further enhancing the overall experience for all participants.

Excursion to Brussels: Visiting the institutions

Our main objective was to gain insight into the functioning of the European institutions. To enhance our understanding, we arranged visits to several key institutions, including the European Data Protection Supervisor, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. Under the guidance of German MP Axel Voss, we received valuable insights into the inner workings of the European Parliament. Additionally, we had the opportunity to visit the European Council, further deepening our understanding of the decision-making processes within the EU.



Abbildung 1: Our students in the European Council.

Furthermore, we visited the Permanent Delegation of Turkey to the EU and the Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU, where our students engaged in insightful discussions with the Turkish ambassador Faruk Kaymakçı and officials, addressing Turkey's EU perspective, Germany's European politics, priorities, and their relationship with the European Union. These visits provided us with a comprehensive understanding of the functioning and dynamics of the European institutions, contributing significantly to students' overall knowledge and academic growth.

Moot Court

After the students had already been busy discussing their roles and arguments for the Moot Court during the first two excursion days, it finally came to the simulation. Under the eyes of Prof. Hobe, who was kind enough to visit the students for the day, the groups presented their arguments.



The students were divided into five groups: The Judicial Team, the General Advocates, the European Commission, the European Parliament and finally The Republic of Malta. The roles were distributed like this: The judges act as presiding officers of the trial and have to give the final verdict. They are assisted by the General Advocates, who form their own picture of the case, ask counter-questions of the various parties and finally draw the line for the judges. The European Commission together with the Parliament act as prosecutors, Malta as defendants.

The work on this case is particularly exciting as the case is still before the European Court of Justice today and thus there is no judgement to guide it. The students have therefore repeatedly tried to get certain information from the EU institutions themselves during the visits to various institutions, but unfortunately without success. The full written judgement can be found on the PROTEUS website, but in summary the judges were of the opinion that Malta was in breach of EU law.



Abbildung 2: Our students right after the end of the Moot Court.

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dr. h.c. Stephan Hobe

Institut für Luftrecht, Weltraumrecht und Cyberrecht
Lehrstuhl für Völkerrecht, Europarecht, Europäisches und Internationales Wirtschaftsrecht
Jean-Monnet-Lehrstuhl
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
50931 Köln

Research Assistant: *Meltem Soydan, Mag. iur.*

meltem.soydan@uni-koeln.de | Tel.: 0221-470-2666

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels

Institut für Politische Wissenschaft und Europäische Fragen
Centrum für Türkei- und EU-Studien (CETEUS)
Jean-Monnet-Lehrstuhl
Gottfried-Keller-Str. 1 50931 Köln

Research Associate: *Harun Suratli, M.A.*

harun.suratli@uni-koeln.de | Tel.: 0221-470-8617

Research Assistant: *Valentin Althoff, B. Sc.*

valentin.althoff@uni-koeln.de | Tel.: 0221-470-1493

www.proteus.uni-koeln.de