

Transitional Justice after war and dictatorship

Learning from European experiences (1945-2000)

Symposium 23-24 May 2012
Egmontpalace, Brussels

General description and introduction

This Symposium is part of a project funded by the Federal Belgian Peace Building Division and coordinated by CEGES-SOMA.

Today, many countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are struggling with historical legacies of dictatorship, (civil) war, repression and massacres. In order to (re)build a stable society, these countries have to develop specific transitional justice strategies and measures in order to come to terms with their traumatic past. Many European countries were forced to tackle similar questions and problems between 1945 and 2000. The European cases present the advantage of the long time span that has evolved since transitional justice policies were designed and executed there. Therefore, it enables us to look at the long term effects of these policies and to detect a number of lessons learned. A team of fifteen historians and political scientists has prepared **nine European country reports**. Luc Huyse (initiator of the project) has produced a general overview of the country reports, identifying contrasts and common processes (**the European Experiences Report**). He has also prepared a discussion text on the delicate and difficult 'lessons learned' approach (**the Lessons Learned Report**).

Both the historical analysis and the lessons learned, will be central to the presentations and discussions at the Symposium. A central place in the debate will be given to a panel of five experienced transitional justice practitioners from the 'Global South'.

The symposium aims to invite a broad and diverse audience, of political and civil society leaders as well as members of the academic community. There will be ample time for discussion, debate and networking. All participants will receive in advance an online version of the nine European case studies. A final report (widely distributed in English, Dutch, French and Spanish) will be available in September this year. It will include the general overview of the country studies, the lessons learned analysis, and the comments made by the panel of the practitioners of the South.

Programme

23 May 2012

(Egmontpalace – Arenberg room)

Comments on the European experiences and integrated transitions

9.30h: Doors

10.00h-12.30h: Session 1 (Chair : Emmanuel Gerard – KU Leuven)

10.00h: Opening speeches and keynote address

- Minister Didier Reynders (Belgian Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation) *to be confirmed*
- Minister Paul Magnette (Belgian Federal Public Service of Public Enterprises, Scientific Policy and Development Cooperation) *to be confirmed*
- Rudi Van Doorslaer (director CEGES-SOMA)
- Key note address by Marc Freeman (Founding Director of the Institute for Integrated Transitions) - *Achieving More Integrated Transitions: Putting the "Transitional" back into "Transitional Justice"*

11.15h-11.45h: Coffee break

11.45h-12.30h: The European experiences report

- Nico Wouters - Introduction: historians and transitional justice
- Luc Huyse – European Report presentation

12.30h-13.15h: Discussion

13.15h-14.00h: Lunch (Wandtapijten Salon / Salon des Tapisseries - Egmontpalace)

14.00h-17.00h: Session 2 (chair: Stef Vandeginste - UA)

14.00h-15.30h: Comments by the invited Global South experts on the European Experiences Report and Marc Freeman's approach:

- Juan E. Méndez (former *UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*)
- Habib Nassar (*director MENA Program, International Center for Transitional Justice*)
- Eugène Nindorera (*Head of Human Rights Section/Division and OHCHR Representative, Liberia*)

- Yasmin Sooka (*Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights, South Africa*)
- Patrick Walsh (*Senior Advisor to the Technical Secretariat of the Post-Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation, Dili, Timor-Leste*)

15.30h-16.00h: Coffee break

16.00h-17.00h: Discussion and closure of day 1

24 May 2012
(Egmontpalace – Arenberg room)
Discussion on lessons learned

9.00h: Doors

9.15h-13.30h: Session 3 (Chair : Nico Wouters – CEGES-SOMA)

9.15h-11.15h: The ‘lessons learned’ report and comments made by the Global South experts

- Luc Huyse - Report presentation
- Juan E. Méndez
- Habib Nassar
- Eugène Nindorera
- Yasmin Sooka
- Patrick Walsh

11.15h-11.45h: Coffee break

11.45h-13.15: Further discussion

13.15-13.30h: Concluding comments by Mark Freeman

13h30h : Lunch

Practical Information

Location:

Egmontpaleis / Palais d'Egmont
Room Arenberg

*Wolstraat / Rue aux Laines and
Kleine Zavel / Place du Petit Sablon, 8
Brussel/Bruxelles*

Subscriptions:

Subscription is free of charge but mandatory. You can register your name via e-mail to:

lut.vandaele@cegesoma.be

CEGES-SOMA

*Luchtvaartsquare/Square de l'Aviation 29
1070 – Brussel/Bruxelles*

Two weeks before the symposium, you will be asked to confirm your presence to the symposium.

For updates and information, visit our website : www.cegesoma.be

The preparatory European Experiences Report:

The European country reports (pdf-file) will be available at the end of April 2012 on:
www.cegesoma.be

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