

Jean Monnet Conference in Brussels

It is quite a pleasure for me to speak to Jean Monnet Professors about the transformation of the last 20 years. Personally I have devoted the second part of my life to this subject especially before 1989 to help the dissidents and to encourage them, and after 1989 to improve the situation in transformation societies. It has to be said quite clearly: the last 20 are a very success story for Europe. If I am now critical, this should be not forgotten.

What are the problems still?

- 1.) Education and science is not a European responsibility. It is still necessary for the member states of the European Union to do something on this subject. The enlargement of the European Union on the democratic and economic level is a success story, concerning education and science we are missing a lot. The mobility programs started by Ralf Dahrendorf and the Jean Monnet Chairs are only the two activities leading in the right direction. We have still an insufficient level of education, science and research in the transformation countries within the European Union, but also at the possible candidates for further enlargement. I was for a very long time in charge of Southeast Europe on behalf of EU. I always said that it is a mistake that we have no responsibility on this. I was very much supported by the European Parliament to do something but it has not happen enough, which can be clearly seen by brain drain, by the lack of advanced education and the quality of science. The list of the Jean Monnet Chairs is one of the positive contributions in the right direction as a positive development, but it is not enough for South East Europe.

- 2.) In 1989 we had no blue prints what to do if communism and a central planed economy is falling down. So we are learning for 20 years on the subject how to do it. In the beginning we had this marvellous intellectuals, journalists, artists as dissidents but they never have learned before to govern a country. So far, still the number of old communists having changed their plate and the party membership is still in charge. I do not want to criticise them generally, but we missed the right training and the building up of a real network. So far the reestablishment of the old connections is

existing. And the transformation is not completed, not only in the new member states, but also in all the possible candidate countries in Eastern and South Eastern Europe. “Creating Europe” does not only mean to fulfil the Acquis Communautaire and to go the way of EU accession, it is more implementation of Europe, which is done by Jean Monnet Chairs but this is not enough.

- 3.) The Universities are a European invention. Done in the outgoing Middle Ages and in the Renaissance. In this time it was easier to have a mobility of professors and students because Latin was the lingua franca and even by the difficulty of mobility, outstanding professors and also students were moving easily through Europe as you can see in the vita of a lot of outstanding scientists. We are on the way again Jean Monnet Professorships are a sign, but it is not yet finished and we have to do more.
- 4.) We have not yet created Europe. As Jacques Delors commented we have to give Europe a soul, he meant the common quality of Europe, but are we really dealing with these questions? Has it created a real mobility on quality? Still there are a lot of differences in the landscape of science and research, which are not an advantage for Europe but a real danger for the stability of the continent.
- 5.) By all the pride what has be done, we have always also to do a consideration, what are we missing! Beside stable democracy we have to do more on education, science and research. It can not be only the priority of investment concerning economy but also we need a development of a network of the Jean Monnet Professors. On which fields? The economists are questioned, because the handling of the current financial and economic crises until now was not the best. Is enough research done on this? Also we have to do something concerning the climate problems, it might be an interesting way to create a network of Jean Monnet Professor on the subject to work in common. Also we are missing a common quality on health-administration and science. We are living in an over aged society, but I think specific focus on the European level is not yet done.
- 6.) Also we have a big problem with “brain drain”. For sure some countries are gaining out of this, but others are loosing. In general, Europe is loosing talents. So far we have to concentrate on democracy and mobility in specific processes. Jean Monnet Professors are requested to cooperate on the subject.

In general: We need more responsibilities and possibilities for Europe and the European Union. Aside the nation state, the Jean Monnet Professors are a very good example but I want to add an other question. The positioning of Europe is now requested concerning globalisation. Are we focusing on this? We have Jean Monnet Professors whole over the world, but to define the role of Europe in this process has to happen.

Central and Eastern Europe and also South Eastern Europe have specific themes: how we can be support education and science in its development in these regions? We all know the weakness of the traditional system in these countries. I think we shall create a network of Jean Monnet Professors on this. Also we have to lay more foundations concerning health, medicine and administration on these sectors. That is also true for demography and migration.

A specific sector is the problem of reconciliation and history. The European integration process started by the mutual understanding between France and Germany. Reconciliation here was the beginning of new Europe. Nowadays we have to register that we are getting a lot of bilateral problems (Slovenia/Croatia, Slovakia/Hungary, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia/Greece and so on). But it is not only a problem of transformation parts of Europe, it is also a problem of whole Europe. If we can register, that a kind of nationalism – I am always saying it is egoism – is coming up, so it is quite clear that we have not enough done in teaching history. I do not expect in the next years a common European history book but I expect the process, where ideas on the whole development and the dialogue is established – by Jean Monnet Professors! We can only give an answer towards a wrong nationalism by the enhancing of the humanities. I think it is necessary to create special events on this subject.

We can say the glass is half full after 20 years of Jean Monnet Professors, but I think it is also half empty concerning the obligations we have on Europe. Unity and diversity requests the common understanding of our existing, not in a simple way, where no differences are existing but in a better mutual understanding. Here, Jean Monnet Professors have to do something!