



Brugge

Alumni Association
College of Europe
Collège d'Europe
Association des Anciens Etudiants



Natolin

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE COLLEGE OF EUROPE
ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS ETUDIANTS DU COLLÈGE D'EUROPE

Activity report 2017/2018

Rapport d'activité 2017/2018

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I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The beginning of 2017 has brought along numerous significant changes to the Alumni Association of the College of Europe (AA) and its ways of working. The Association relocated to new premises, from rue du Trône, to rue Breydel, two steps from Schuman. The team has been also reinforced by a new administrative assistant and valuable team member, who, hired part-time, fulfil often challenging tasks of daily support of the administration of the AA, as well as planning of the major events, the annual anniversary dinners, whilst responding to daily requests from the alumni. Last but not least, the AA decided to change its website provider and revolutionise thus its online presence from a rather “passive website” to a dynamic “[Alumni online community](#) across the world”.

Indeed, all those new realities represented a very busy and challenging period as well as opportunities for the Association. Therefore, in a sense, these challenges and opportunities served as a test of how we teamwork and of the overall coordination of the Administrative Board, with several newly elected administrators. The last year has focused on absorbing those changes institutionally, adapting and advancing past and new initiatives, including continued professionalization of the Association. Thanks to the collective efforts, most of our goals set for the respective period were achieved and implemented with success over the last 12 months.

In this context, the AA carried on to foster diverse partnerships, such as national representations in Brussels, and developed new ones, such as the one with *Alliance française*. We have organized a numerous alumni thematic group events, MeetUps, roundtables and workshop. In the same vein, the Association reached out to different regional groups, strengthened existing ties and endeavoured to develop new ones. Equally, being in touch with alumni interested in launching formalised group activities in new geographical areas, we facilitated and supported creation of new regional groups as well. This is a positive trend, which goes in line with the stronger alumni ties online, via the new webpage, which favours greater geographical diversity, connections and cooperation with alumni worldwide.

Finally, as the Association aims at substantial cooperation with the College, where possible, we have organized or supported the College in organising several specific events for students, such as two LinkedIn and a CV workshops, contributed to the career events, presented the Association and organized welcome drinks for the students and recently graduated alumni. The Association also identified possibilities on enhanced mutual support in terms of alumni careers and outreach to the alumni as well as advancing shared objectives.

Building on the experience from the past year as well as previous lessons learned, the Association has been actively engaged in strategic communication and public relations activities. We have constantly pursued the process of professionalization of the Association, standardization and continued to identify efficient and effective working methods in a view of better meeting its objectives, as defined in the statutes. Indeed, it is notable that there is a considerable space for scaling up in this context, deepening, widening and improving our activities, initiatives and projects. At present, this overall ambition is however limited by the scarcity of human resources and credits, reality of which a non-profit organisation needs to face by nature. Yet, we are committed to innovation and creative approaches to achieve the objectives of the Alumni Association in a view of a blossoming and genuine alumni community.



Michaela Anna Simakova
President of the Alumni of the College of Europe

II. ADMINISTRATIVE SITUATION

As of 30 June 2018, there are no expiring mandates of any of the administrators (see the detail below). The Association's daily work is supported by Treasurer, Charles de Chefdebien, and Secretary, Anthony Bisch who have been performing their functions since July 2017, in support of the President, in administrating the Association, its finances and organization of regular Board meetings.

Composition du Conseil d'Administration au 15 juin 2018 :

- Nouvellement élus en juin 2017, avec des mandats expirant le 30 juin 2020:

Michaela SIMAKOVA, présidente
Rémi AUGUSTYNIAK, membre du CA
Joséphine CART, membre du CA
Joanna HORNIK, membre du CA
Christiane SEIDEL, membre du CA

- Réélus, avec des mandats expirant le 30 juin 2020:

Marie Jeanne DOS SANTOS, membre du CA
Eleonora WAKTARE, membre du CA

- Mandats expirant le 30 juin 2019:

Anthony BISCH, membre du CA
Jessica BROBALD, membre du CA
Charles DE CHEFDEBIEN, membre du CA
Constantin GISSLER, membre du CA
Guillaume LENGLET, membre du CA
Alessandro MATTUCCI, membre du CA
Camilla RANDAZZO, membre du CA
Igor TARANIC, membre du CA

- D'après les statuts de l'AA, le Recteur ou son représentant est également membre de droit. Xavier Estève, conseiller spécial auprès du Recteur, a ainsi régulièrement participé aux réunions.

The Board meetings have been regularly conducted within the frequency of 4-8 weeks and allowed for regular debates of current issues, organizational, legal and administrative issues as well as new initiatives. Minutes of each Board meeting have been drafted. The Association also employs, on a part-time basis, an administrative assistant. Without this crucial support and facilitation, its current performance, level of activities and ambition in terms of the role within the Alumni community would not be sustainable.

In addition, several alumni reached out to the Association, expressing interest in contributing to its works as volunteers/ observers. Continues and dynamic volunteering are the precondition for the Association to sustain, continue professionalising and developing its activities and thus, a positive trend which is to be encouraged and pursued in a systematic manner.

III. FINANCIAL SITUATION

Le capital de l'Association des Anciens (AA) s'élève à 42.192,05 EUR au 31 décembre 2017.

Les ressources financières de l'AA sont principalement constituées par les cotisations de ses membres ainsi que par la subvention annuelle versée par le Collège (10.035,76 EUR pour l'année 2017). Les bénéfices issus de la vente des tickets relatifs aux dîners anniversaires ainsi que la vente de produits promotionnels constituent également une source de revenus pour l'AA.

On constate une diminution du capital de 9.602,58 EUR pour l'exercice 2017. Cette perte n'est pas structurelle. Elle s'explique par les éléments conjoncturels suivants:

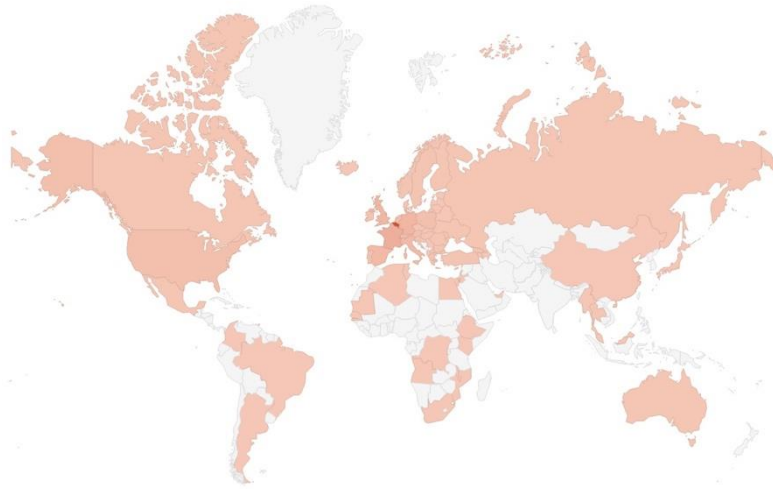
- très faible participation au dîner anniversaire 2017 des plus anciennes promotions (seulement 30 personnes présentes);
- coût élevé du stockage des archives suite au déménagement des bureaux de l'AA au cours de l'été 2017;
- coût des honoraires du notaire mandaté pour les changements de statuts enregistrés en 2017 (obligation légale sous le droit belge des associations);
- coût de la location d'une salle pour l'organisation de l'Assemblée Générale ordinaire et l'Assemblée Générale extraordinaire en 2017 ;
- frais de voyages exceptionnels liés aux déplacements relatifs aux activités de l'AA en 2017 ;
- emploi simultané par l'AA de deux assistantes administratives au mois de mars 2017 afin d'assurer le passage de témoin.

De substantielles économies ont déjà été effectuées par l'AA grâce notamment à des charges locatives inférieures à celles des anciens bureaux de la rue du Trône et à la migration vers la plateforme Hivebrite. Les économies générées par ces deux changements seront amplifiées dans le bilan de 2018 car celles-ci ne sont intervenues qu'au deuxième semestre de 2017. La possibilité de recourir aux services d'une nouvelle firme comptable est également envisagée comme une source d'économie potentielle.

La recherche de nouveaux donateurs constitue l'une des priorités de l'AA. Plusieurs pistes sont actuellement à l'étude, dont celles de donateurs issus du Royaume-Uni. L'AA rappelle à cette occasion que l'accroissement du nombre de cotisants parmi les Anciens demeure le premier axe de sa stratégie de levée de fonds. Cet accroissement sera notamment obtenu par une meilleure information apportée aux Anciens quant aux bénéfices pouvant être tirés d'une cotisation à l'AA (droit de vote aux assemblées générales, accès à l'annuaire des Anciens et au service carrières, tarif préférentiel pour les dîners anniversaires...) Maintenir un nombre significatif de membres à jour de cotisation constitue une nécessité absolue pour l'AA, celle-ci devant assumer quotidiennement des charges financières importantes pour assurer son bon fonctionnement.

IV. ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ALUMNI PLATFORM “HIVEBRITE” 2017- 2018

The Alumni Association of the College of Europe (AA) has in spring 2017 successfully transferred its online presence from the old website, provided by US based iModules, to a full-fledged online community, provided by Hivebrite. The decision was taken in a view of finding a reliable, Europe-based provider, to modernise the platform and get access to new community management tools as well as to get a



better value for the resources devoted. It has been one year since the AA has undergone the migration to this completely new, modern and promising system, acquiring a lot of new capabilities in terms of community management, outreach and communication toolkit, database and tracking of the alumni worldwide. In this context, the aim of the report is to take stock of what has been accomplished and achieved, one year after, and link it also to the AA's enhanced cooperation with the College of Europe (CoE): implications, new possibilities and boosted potential in term of fulfilling the AA's objectives as stated in the AA statutes.

Our new system has seen tremendous success in uptake. Whereas in our old system we never had more than 3000 alumni accounts – many of which inactive – our new system after less than a year has more than 4000 who have all activated their accounts personally in a less than one year. This is not a one-off observation, but a steady influx of alumni and a positive trend to be underlined, as this number increases daily. The main drivers are our Alumni events, thematic/ regional groups, but most importantly, Alumni anniversary dinners, which we now organised for every promotion every 5 years (in contrast to every 10 years in the past), as well as our new newsletters (weekly Career newsletter & Alumni newsletter) as well as the recent generations of alumni who are system is particularly successful with. The fact that the creation and updating of profiles is so easy and quick (both with and without LinkedIn import), has increased massively the accuracy of profiles and thus of our data in general.

Since June 2017, our online Alumni online community has:

- More than 4000 alumni have active their accounts in less than a year (i.e. 1/3 of ALL alumni of the College, and even more if you take into account deceased alumni); For 19% of alumni we have the country, for 10% the region and for 71% the city of residence (all updated within the past year) – active alumni on almost every continent;
- Of the current promotion, Simone Veil, 74% of alumni already activated their accounts before graduation (allowing them full member access to all features in a view to support their search when it comes to thesis and job opportunities through the Alumni “Who’s Who” tool);
- More than 1300 users have imported current job information from LinkedIn, the predominant global career network;

- 13 Alumni Regional and Thematic groups (with more dedicated spaces currently under construction), including a “Welcome to Brussels” information hub aiming to help recently graduated alumni to better integrate the Brussels “bubble”;
- Almost 1000 job offers created by alumni themselves and board members;
- More than 70 events of general interest, Alumni Thematic and Regional groups;
- Alumni goodie webshop;
- Send out more than 250 e-mail campaigns (Career and regular Alumni newsletters, general information, event invitations, information specific groups, promotion of student initiatives and regional groups, etc.); and
- Alumni opened the Association’s e-mails 182 920 times in less than a year.

Based on the successful implementation of the transition and launching of the new system, the Alumni Association migrated from what can be considered no longer relevant “webpage” style system, to a full- fledged *Alumni online community*. During the less than one years we have been able to transfer, steer, foster and boost alumni activities based on this platform, identifying several positive trends, which open plenty of new possibilities to the Alumni Association, managing the community as well as when it comes to its cooperation with the College.

V. RELATION WITH THE COLLEGE

The Association has overall entertained a very good relationship with the College of Europe. Building on the successful launch and promising results of the first year of the implementation of the new Alumni online platform, the Association prepared an implementation report covering this period and presented it to the Rector in spring 2018. The discussion set the scene for a brainstorming on possibilities of an enhanced cooperation.

In this context, the use and success of the new online alumni platform, implemented and managed by the Association, has allowed us to strengthen the cooperation with the College thanks to:

- Increased and constantly growing data quality;
- Easy connectivity with the alumni worldwide;
- Personalised and highly visual email communication, flexible and update to date tool to share messages;
- Growing job database (fed by the Association, Alumni themselves as well as the College); and
- Effective platform to share different student initiatives, including supporting different departments when organizing their study trips (for Alumni meetings).

It is to be noted that the new system is constantly improving, technically, but also in terms of how it is being used by alumni. That being said, there is a space and significant potential for further cooperation, in a view of pooling and effective use of resources.

Besides this new and promising path for strengthen cooperation on which we set off in period covered by this report, the Association, when possible, participated at the administrative and management meetings regularly organised by the College. Equally, a designated College representative regularly participated at the Association’s Board meetings, received all supportive materials and minutes from the respective deliberations.

The Association has maintained daily working contacts with the College staff in a view of information sharing, coordination on diverse topics as well as shared initiatives and mutually reinforcing communication and fundraising initiatives, such as contribution to respective newsletters and publishing of news items via relevant communication channels.

Traditionally, the Association also delivered a presentation at the beginning of the academic year to the Veil students about its activities and how they can benefit from what the Association offers, including the free full membership to which the students are granted access in the middle of the academic year. This full membership access to the Association online community provides them with *inter alia* access to the alumni “Who’s who” search tool, preferential access to some of our popular events as well as access to the career consulting service that the Association offers.

Last but not least, the College has been invited and participates at the 2018 anniversary dinners, which the Association organises in Bruges. On June 2, the treasurer of the College joined the festive seated dinner and welcome the alumni who graduated 35 years and more ago. On the June 9, we jointly organised a walking tour of the College, showing the alumni, who graduated 20, 25 and 30 years ago, what has changed, what has not changes, from the perspective of the staff as well as that of current students. The Rector, who will deliver welcoming remarks, as well as the treasurer of the College joined the dinner.

VI. ANNIVERSARY DINERS

In 2018, the Association organises 3 different anniversary dinners in Bruges (at Oud-Sint-Jan venue) as well as supports the organisation of the 5th year anniversary, which equally takes place in Bruges (at Be-in venue).

Having started the preparations in early autumn 2017, the Association successfully liaised with several “ambassadors” or “godparents” of the respective promotions to mobilise and inform fellow classmates, especially in cases when their contact details were not available. This is a good practice and should be hence sustained for the upcoming iterations.

The registration rate, especially for the senior promotions’ anniversary, has been rather good (84) and feedback received during and after the dinner, rather positive. The 10+15 anniversary party has attracted registration of more than 165 alumni at present, whereas, the biggest group is clearly the 20+25+30, which at present has 255 alumni registered. For the latter, the Association, in cooperation with the College, also organised the mentioned Walking Tour of the College, 20, 25 and 30 years after...with almost 60 alumni and their family members registered. As additional service, a baby-sitting option was discussed, but however proved difficult to formally ensure, due to legal regulation in this regard. The Association hence facilitated private baby-sitting arrangement and will continue to look for optimal alternative options, aware of the family commitments of our alumni.

Lastly, the AA support the organisation of the 5th year anniversary of the Havel promotion, which for the moment has only seen registrations of 87 alumni, which is rather low and might be linked to the email update campaign which has not been conducted to this point. This should be also a lesson learned for the 2019 iteration of the anniversary dinners.

VII. SOCIAL EVENTS & SOCIAL MEDIA

i. MeetUP Welcome Natolin Students of the Veil Promotion

On 10 April 2018, the Alumni Association organised its traditional networking drink for the Veil students and anciens on the occasion of the study trip of the Natolin students' in study visit to Brussels. It confirmed to be a popular and appreciated gathering as also this year the event was attended by more than 100 alumni and students. The students from Natolin had an opportunity to get in touch with other alumni based in Brussels and with representative of the Alumni Association who provided information to the students on its diverse activities.

ii. MeetUP Welcome to Brussels Keynes Promotion

As every year, the Alumni Association welcomed the newly graduated alumni to Brussels. We did that with a dedicated MeetUP on the 15 November 2017. It was an occasion for the alumni of the Keynes promotion to enter the "EU bubble" and meet other Alumni living in Brussels. And for the more senior alumni to get in touch. Members of the Board of the Alumni Association were present and introduced the different activities of the Association to all the participants.

iii. Alumni Association on social media

Association's Facebook Page is currently liked by 4,841 people - a 9% increase over the past 12 months. More varied posted content, including advertising Association events as well as acknowledging the Alumnae/i that contribute to the "rayonnement du Collège" have contributed to an increase in the overall reach and engagement of the page's content. An official LinkedIn Page was created over the course of the year and has now 224 followers. A Twitter account has also been created for future development. For next year, the objective will be to consolidate the growth on Facebook and develop a strategy to communicate more actively on LinkedIn.

VIII. ALUMNI THEMATIC GROUPS



The Board approved “Guidelines for the creation and successful kick-off of Alumni Thematic Groups”. The aim of the guidelines is to support the kick off, provide basic information for the starting, Board approved, alumni thematic groups or to anciens who seek to learn more about this possibility of engagement with the framework of the Association. Moreover, sharing of the good practices as identified by existing, well-established thematic groups, and practical information, shall also

contribute to efficiency and professional organisation of the events and activities of the starting thematic groups.

i. Alumni Women's Group

The CoE Alumni Women's Group is an inclusive cross-cutting Alumni group that aims at providing a space for discussion, debate and exchange of best practices on gender issues in the work place, to discuss different gender issues and create a community of interest and practice as well as to support the professional development of its Alumni.ae, using creative gender perspective. Through our activities, we strive to connect Alumni.ae across promotions and activity fields to enhance dialogue and allow us to exchange experience, initiate cross-promotional dialogue and steer the debate among Alumni.ae, raising awareness in our community as well.

The CoE Alumni Women's Group organises different types of activities, inter alia:

- Professional Skills Workshops to develop professional skills. Past workshops included communication, leadership, resilience and policy brief writing;
- Thematic events to generate debate and discussion on a specific question or around a specific speaker;
- A mentorship programme within the Women's Group to connect Alumni.ae across promotions, and Intra-Alumni community communication through inclusion and outreach to external partners in the view of raising awareness about gender and women professional development;
- Cultural events to provide for networking opportunities in a relaxed atmosphere and stress the importance of the work-life balance.

Please note that the CoE Alumni Women's Group is an inclusive group and all its activities are open to all Alumni/ae.

Developing our skills: professional workshops series

- **Confident Communication to Advance Your Career**

The Women's Group invited the Alumni community to its third professional skills workshop titled "Confident communication to advance your career", with Worldly Women at Leverage HR.

Caroline Kersten, a partner at Leverage HR, shared tips and best practices about how to speak up and advocate for ourselves.

The starting point of this workshop was that the most successful men and women tend to create their own future through effective communication, by using words to own success, demand recognition for achievements and project confidence. Research, however, shows that women have a greater challenge than men in this area. Caroline thus shared practical tips on how to "speak up" and communicate with confidence.

What were the main takes from this workshop?

- Learning essentials to effective and confident communication;
- Becoming aware of the differences in communication between women and men;
- Overcoming barriers to "speaking up" in order to advance your career;
- Practicing how to share your achievements without bragging.

- **Policy Brief Writing**

For the fourth edition of its Professional Skills Workshops, the Women's Group focused on drafting skills.

Over twenty Alumnae joined us for a Policy Brief Writing workshop with Dr. Rosa Balfour, Senior Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the U.S. and member of the Steering Committee of Women in International Security Brussels (WIIS).

This dynamic and interactive session provided participants with a practical set of tools in order to assure you write good-quality policy briefs. The workshop focused on the best ways to structure your line of thinking and to develop your drafting capabilities.



Drafting is a transversal skill that we are continuously working on and improving, whether we are lawyers, police makers or scholars. This workshop was a chance to learn tips for efficient drafting and to practice structuring policy briefs.

Following popular workshops organised earlier in 2017 on confident communication in a view of advancing one's career and on policy brief writing, the Alumni Women's Group tackled the topic of "charisma" on this professional development journey.

- **Introduction to Learning Charisma**



Face à la forte demande en matière de développement personnel, le Groupe des Femmes a décidé de proposer un atelier sur le charisme.

L'objectif ? Prendre conscience de son charisme pour mieux le développer. Pour cela, nous étions accompagnés de la formidable Ceren Ozturk, coach certifiée, consultante en ressources humaines et fondatrice de CO-HR Consulting.

Managing a good reputation and mastering your communication skills are amongst the traits that will set you apart both in professional and private life. Charismatic behavior is a blend of good communication and good reputation. It is also an acquired skill that can help inspire devotion in others, thereby increasing your influence and effectiveness in the workplace and in life.

As Ceren explained, learning charisma is a long journey and every long journey starts with a first step. This workshop assisted participants in their first step in building your charisma by:

- Creating awareness: understanding the charisma concept;
- Identifying one's strengths and working on those strengths to build one's personal charisma; and

- Introducing a toolbox of charismatic behaviour.

The interactive workshop gave rise to enthusiastic exchanges about different types of charisma and how to identify our own charisma features.

Getting inspired: discussions events

- **A Leadership Journey with WPL founder, Silvana Koch-Mehrin**

The Women's Group had the pleasure to invite Alumni.ae to a highly inspirational discussion event with Silvana Koch-Mehrin. This event was kindly hosted by the European Commission, thanks to the precious support of Alumni Xavier Prats Monné, Director General of DG Sante.

Silvana Koch-Mehrin is the Founder and President of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum (WPL), a worldwide network of female politicians gathering women in political office – Ministers, Members of Parliaments, Mayors. WPL is an independent, non-partisan and not-for-profit foundation. Its mission is to advance society by increasing the number and influence of women in political leadership.

In her contribution, Silvana shared the philosophy behind launching WPL, shedding light on how and why the female leadership is a key element of success, how to approach and develop our own leadership. After her remarks on her own leadership journey, Alumni.ae discussed with her and other participants the different ways to identify and shape ones leadership journey.

Meeting each other: work-life balance and cultural events

- **Yoga for Peace: Building resilience from within**



Pour aider nos membres à réconcilier corps et esprit, et pour profiter du beau temps bruxellois, le Groupe des Femmes a proposé une séance de yoga en plein air, guidé par l'énergie de Radama Simakova, instructrice venue de Prague.

The core of this class was Power Yoga, which is the fitness-based vinyasa practice. This form of yoga builds internal heat, increases stamina, strength, and flexibility, helping with stress release. The flow of the class went through sequences of Awareness, Discovery, Challenge,

Dynamism, Endurance, Strength, Relaxation and the final feeling of pure happiness and rejuvenation.

The objective of this yoga session was to help participants discover their own balance and ways to relax. According to them, this was a successfully relaxing outdoor yoga session!

ii. Alumni Energy Group

The four main developments for the Energy Group in the period covered by the report are the Breakfast event organised in October 2017, transition to a new communication platform through a dedicated space on the Association's website, introduction of monthly drinks' meetings as well as cooperation with the Energy Chair.

- **Energy breakfast Event of 31st October**



On 31 October 2017, the CoE Alumni Energy Group has organized a breakfast event, hosted by the GIZ Representation Brussels. The Event was attended by about 30 Alumni from different promotions who discussed the topic of "Promoting Access to Energy through EU Development Cooperation".

The participants had a chance to talk about the challenges EU Development cooperation faces while promoting access to energy in developing countries with Anca SIMION, Policy Officer at DG DEVCO, European Commission, in Unit C6 on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change and Michael FRANZ, Team Leader of the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme (RECP).



The main conclusions of the discussion are that EU programmes promoting energy The access in developing countries need to be tailor made to the specific country context: this means they have to respond to the needs of the local communities as well as to the geographic realities (e.g. rural areas) and take into account the different market realities. Since development aid alone is not sufficient to tackle the challenges of energy access, investments from the private sector are crucial. However, money is not at the heart of the problem, but it is the lack of viable investment opportunities (e.g. bankable projects). This is where projects like the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme come in, a European platform, funded by DG DEVCO, which promotes private sector participation and investment in renewables in Africa.

Michael Franz, Team Leader of the Africa-EU Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme speaking about the different market segments



Organisers Lioba Donner and Igor Taranic with students from Bruges and Ernestas Oldyrevas (academic assistant working for the CoE Energy Chair) on the left: Anca Simion, Policy Officer at the European Commission (DG DEVCO Unit C6 on Sustainable Energy and Climate Change) explaining the EU's policy aiming to promote access to energy in developing countries

- **New communications platform in the new CoE Alumni Association website**



We used to communicate via Facebook Group and moved to the CoE Alumni Association website for a number of reasons. First, it ensures more transparency and wider participation; second, it provides better data privacy; and third, we have this technological option with the new AA website. Experience of the last few months shows that it was a good decision. There are many interested Alumni from Brussels and beyond and from various promotions that start taking part in Energy Group's activities.

If interested, please join the group, contribute, stay in touch or just keep updated on Group's activities through this [link](#).

- **Introduction of monthly drinks**

As part of our team building, we started organizing monthly drinks, just to get to know each other, discuss new ideas and start planning next year's activities. First time we met on 22 May at London Calling (Rue de Dublin 46, 1050 Ixelles) and had really nice time. Details on all further meetings will always be published on our group page on the website.

- **Cooperation with the Energy Chair**

For the last several years we had a very good record of cooperation with the Energy Chair and his team. Now we are ready to take it one step further. During the summer we will coordinate our activities with the Energy Chair and find synergies. We aim at organizing events together, participate in the events organized by the Chair and participate in the study programme in Bruges. All the details will be available on the group page on the website.

iii. **Alumni Digital Tech Policy Group**

Digital Tech Policy Group discusses Artificial Intelligence with Pat Bajari, Chief Economist at Amazon

More than 40 alumni came together to learn about one of the hottest tech topics both in the media and in political circles, artificial intelligence. Digitisation's impact on across the economy and in particular on employment was the subject of this evening hosted at the Amazon Brussels offices. A lively question and answer session was followed by an informal get-together over Belgian beers.

iv. Alumni Environmental & Health Group

The Health Work Group was not very active during the past year due to unforeseen circumstances. One high level roundtable was organised in collaboration with the Environment Group on 25 April. After a long organisation due to the difficulty in combining the agendas of the speakers, we managed to secure Mrs. Karin Kadenbach MEP who was interested in hosting our roundtable on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). The event, that took place in the European Parliament, brought around the table representatives from the European Commission (Dr. Plantady), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Dr. Monnet), the European Patients' Forum (Mrs. Immonen), the European Federation for Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (Mrs. Kuiper) and the International Federation for Animal Health Europe (Mrs. Feller) and was attended by around 40 participants.

The Health Group is currently working on future initiatives to make sure there will be some interesting appointments in the coming months. We should have more visibility on the future initiatives in the course of July before the summer break.

v. Alumni Competition Group

The thematic group, set up in mid-2017, has organised its well-awaited launching event in spring 2018, which attracted a lot of attention as well as speakers from abroad.

The first event of the CoE “Alumni in Competition” group took place on Wednesday (May 30th) at the lovely Piada Bar, just a short walk away from Place du Luxembourg in Brussels.

Four competition professionals shared their experience in the field, highlighting how their year at the College helped them get where they are now and what they expect from the newly formed alumni group.



The Q&A session that followed the four introductory speeches was a valuable source of inspiration for the group organisers, as many interesting ideas worth exploring came up during the discussion. The suggestions were both about the format (round tables) and topics (trade policy, private enforcement) of future events.

Afterwards, the more than 70 people who attended the event had a chance to enjoy an informal networking session in the garden of the bar, as the event was blessed with great weather.

The speakers at this event were from the academia, European Commission, legal and economist world:

Aleksandra Boutin (Compass Lexecon) pointed out that her College friends are wonderful partners for fascinating substantial discussions on competition policy. And it is these honest, thorough discussions, based on trust and the special College bond, which gave her the idea to set up the College of Europe Competition network – where such trust based discussions could have a wider impact. And where they could inspire a new generation of competition professionals to best serve the European consumer.

Pablo Ibáñez Colomo (LSE) noted that in spite of the many discussions about competition issues in Brussels, there are not many occasions to have deep discussions. The group could in this sense be an innovative platform to look at some issues under a different light.



According to Alfonso Lamadrid (Garrigues), no academic institution can affect your professional life as much as the College. The College's broad perspective on EU law is something that really helped him during his career.

As for his views on what the group can become, he mentioned that a mentoring programme targeted to aspiring competition professionals could be a great addition to the Brussels competition world. In general, the group should focus on making an impact especially on younger generations.

Nick Banasevic (European Commission) expressed his opinion on the potential added value of the new alumni group. Compared to more traditional competition-focused groups, it could be a more open and accessible forum aiming to get especially younger practitioners involved.

vi. Alumni Asylum & Migration

The Association has provided guidance and advice to interested group of alumni on launching of an Alumni Asylum and Migration thematic group. The representative of the Group has joined one the AA's board meetings, presented the initiative and objectives of the proposed thematic group, on the formal establishment of which the Board subsequently agreed. Subsequently, the group has presented the idea to the AA about a launching event and are currently in touch on the way forward.

vii. Other alumni debates organized by the Association in 2017/2018

Discussion on the "White Paper on the Future of Europe" with Mr Eric Paquet.

The alumni working for the European Institutions met the Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission Mr Eric Paquet (today Director General DG RTD) for an insightful discussion on the "White Paper on the Future of Europe" and the result of the discussion among Member States and the public consultation, in view of the State of the Union 2017. The meeting took place in July 2017 at the Schuman room of the Berlaymont with some 40 Alumni participating.

Discussion on the Future of Europe with Mr Eric Paquet and Mr Gabriele Giudice

The Alumni could meet again Mr Paquet, Deputy Secretary General of the European Commission (today Director General of DG RTD) for an update on the results of the discussions around the "White Paper on the Future of Europe" at strict circle from the the State of the Union 2017 addressed a few days before by President Jucker. Moreover, Mr Gabriele Giudice (Head of Union in DG ECFIN) updated on the discussion around the paper "Deepening the Economic Monetary Union" undergoing between Member States and general public. More than 50 Alumni could participate this high-level debate

Discussion on the future of EU Anti-Dumping with Mr Leopoldo Rubinacci

The Alumni working in the trade fields and those interested in the topic had a fruitful discussion with Mr Leopoldo Rubinacci (Director of Trade Defence at the DG TRADE, European Commission). Mr Rubinacci updated on the main changes that the EU Trade Defence is having. He explained how stronger and faster Anti-Dumping will impact the EU-China trade relations. Some 30 alumni who could register on time could participate the active and insightful discussion at the premises of the Association, on 05 December 2017.

Discussion on the future of EU Trade Defence and the impact on the Union Industry with Mr Leopoldo Rubinacci and Chiara Fanali

The Italian Alumni working in the trade fields or those interested in the topic met again with Mr Mr Leopoldo Rubinacci (Director of Trade Defence at the DG TRADE, European Commission). This time, the debate was further enriched by the presence of Ms Chiara Fanali (Assolombarda, the Lombardy Enterprises association) who represented the view of the Union producers and exporters and confronted with those of the European Commission. The Alumni had a chance to interact with both speakers during the debated and after, in a more informal setting, in front of a glass of while.

IX. ALUMNI CAREERS & OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES

i. Alumni Careers service and the Career newsletter

Les co-responsables du Pôle Carrière constatent l'engouement rencontré par l'info-lettre relayant les offres de stages et d'emplois envoyés tous les lundis. Depuis le lancement du site, ils ont publié plus de 1000 offres. Chaque semaine ils ajoutent entre 10 à 30 nouvelles annonces, trouvées sur internet ou reçues via le réseau (anciens, recruteurs, etc.). Ainsi entre 60 et 85 d'annonces sont toujours visibles sur le site. Certains recruteurs ont également pris l'habitude de nous envoyer régulièrement des offres d'emploi ou de stage.

Il convient aussi de noter une augmentation des publications d'offres directement publiées par des ancien(ne)s sur l'onglet dédié sur le nouveau site web. Une réflexion est en cours pour accroître encore le nombre d'offres à l'attention des étudiants et des anciens.

Enfin, il convient de se féliciter de l'accueil rencontré auprès des étudiants à l'occasion des ateliers de formation dédiés aux bons usages de LinkedIn, sur les campus de Bruges, en mars, et de NatoLin, en avril. En tout, plus d'une trentaine d'étudiants ont pu bénéficier de cet atelier, faisant part d'un réel besoin alors qu'ils commençaient leur recherche d'opportunités

professionnelles post-Collège. Sur la base du volontariat, trois d'entre eux ont bénéficié d'une évaluation personnelle de leur profil à l'issue de la séance collective. Les responsables du pôle carrière souhaitent, avec le soutien de l'administration des deux campus, continuer à proposer ce nouveau service aux promotions suivantes.

ii. Mentorship programme: promising first edition and launch of the second edition

The first half of 2017 saw the continuation of the first 'pilot' edition of the mentorship programme, initially launched within the Women's Group. Over a hundred of pairs had been put in touch and the Women's Group organised regular networking afterworks to allow pairs to meet other participants to the programme and exchange best practices. Feedback was overall very positive and shows that many pairs already managed to build a solid mentoring relationship!

After the success of this first edition, the CoE Alumni Association decided to launch a second edition. The scope of the second edition is larger as it goes beyond the Women's Group, even though a sub-programme specific to the Women's Group was still offered.

The CoE Alumni Association's Mentorship Programme aims at creating an inter-promotional dialogue on career related questions. It is designed as a tool to transfer experience and to help successful Alumni to empower younger Alumni in the professional sphere. It is meant as a bilateral personal development tool, through which both the mentor and the mentee will reflect on their career and professional evolution. Mentors are expected to provide guidance to younger promotions on how to reach their full potential, foster their skills and pursue their career goals. In return, mentors and mentees will share experiences and challenges with the objective of developing self-awareness and confidence in a competitive professional environment. The objective is to inspire each other and to exchange perspectives on career issues.

The call for interest to join the second edition of the programme ran until mid-December 2018 and several hundreds of Alumni applied to take part in the programme. Almost 75% of the 2017 applicants expressed interest in the general programme and 25% to the Women's Group programme, thus demonstrating the potential for these programmes to develop and expand in the coming years.

iii. Welcome to Brussels initiative

The objective of the "Welcome to Brussels" project is twofold: Providing for professional and practical guidance before, during, and after the students' arrival in Brussels as well as raising awareness of the existence and the activities of the Alumni Association and attracting prospective paying members. Therefore, the project is focused on the students of the current Simone Veil promotion in both the Bruges and Natolin campus. Bi-weekly thematic posts are published in the "Welcome to Brussels" group informing the students about administrative procedures and professional life in Brussels. At the end, all posts will be compiled in a booklet. In parallel, a lively discussion and exchange of experiences will be encouraged among the group members.

The concept of the project has been presented to and was approved by the Board members on 12 January 2018. In a first step, a survey of potential areas of interests and a short

introduction have been sent to all students of the Simone Veil promotion on 11 March 2018. The aim of the survey was to investigate the students' knowledge about the Belgian administrative system, their areas of interest and their familiarity with moving to Belgium for professional purposes. Within the deadline of three weeks, 65 students have answered the survey stating their interest in the project. Until now, 51 people have joined the respective group on the Alumni Association's website. The results laid the groundwork for some preliminary research. A majority have raised an interest in the topics "administration & insurances" (78%), "social security & health" (76%), "accommodation" (71%) and "banking & taxation" (65%). The first post on 17 May 2018 dealt with the registration at the commune and the characteristics of the ID cards. The next post, published at the end of May 2018 explains the Belgian social security system. In parallel, the members of the group are invited to ask questions and add their own experience to have a lively exchange. In total, 12 different posts are planned to be published. At the end of the project, in October 2018, a booklet will be compiled and made available to all students of the Veil promotion. The project can be repeated next year based on an internal evaluation. It would also be possible to upscale the project via events and external partnerships.

Even though various expat guidebooks already exist, none of them addresses the specific needs of the students of the current promotion. They might face different questions and needs than, for example, arriving EU Commission staff. Also, their level of experience in both starting a professional career and administrative questions linked to that, as well as moving to another country is likely to be different. Unfortunately, most of the existing expat guidebooks are either outdated or biased. Therefore, this project is supposed to serve as a compact, independent one stop shop that is will to fill this gap.

iv. Session d'information sur les stages à la Commission européenne, 12 octobre 2017

Fidèle à sa mission d'entraide des Anciens (voire des "futurs Anciens") du Collège, l'Association a organisé le 12 octobre 2017, sur le campus de Bruges, une session d'information consacrée aux stages proposés chaque année par la Commission européenne. Un membre du Conseil d'administration de l'Association, ancien stagiaire de la Commission, et a exposé durant près de deux heures le fonctionnement des stages au sein de l'institution et a répondu aux nombreuses questions des étudiants relatives à la soumission de leurs candidatures. Le nombre élevé d'étudiants présents a témoigné d'un intérêt toujours aussi vif pour une carrière au sein des institutions européennes.

L'Association souhaite remercier Xavier Estève, conseiller spécial auprès du Recteur du Collège et responsable du Bureau des Carrières, qui a permis la tenue de cet évènement. Une nouvelle session devrait se tenir à Bruges durant l'automne 2018. L'organisation d'une même session d'information sur le campus de Natolin est également envisagée durant l'année académique 2018-2019.

v. Partnership with Alliance française

The Alumni Association established a partnership with Alliance française to contribute to the project "for a new European social contract". It also involves collaboration with Instituto Cervantes, Yunus Emre Institute, British Council, Finnish Cultural Institute and Istituto Italiano di Cultura.

Based on the wish to rebuild a common European project that would better integrate people and an urgent need to renew a real and constructive dialogue with European citizens, the project aims at concretely looking to the future of Europe, using concepts of “protection” and “care” as basis: how is Europe able to answer to people’s fears and offer the protection they claim for? The ambition of the project is to rethink a social contract, a positive and functioning way of living together, that doesn’t only rely on the relationship between citizens and the state anymore, but goes beyond and takes into account the different dimensions of people of our time and the crucial topics they are facing: concerns about security matters, respect of privacy, preservation of social rights, recognition of identities, care for the aging population, opportunities for the next generation, and preservation of the natural environment.

It will be presented in a series of 4 panel discussions, corresponding to 4 dimensions that compose the contemporary human being:

- 1) Panel #1_Security vs. Privacy: human beings as citizens.
- 2) Panel #2_Rethinking our Welfare State:
- 3) Panel #3_Identities and Communities: how to live together in harmony?
- 4) Panel #4_Humans and their Natural Environment: human beings and non-human beings.

VIII ALUMNI REGIONAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

At present, the Association does not have a formally nominated Regional Group coordinator, with the President performing this role temporarily within the scope of considerable time constraints. That being said, the Association administration will seek for a volunteer, member of the Administrative Board, to perform this function “full-time”, given the importance of liaising and enhancing cooperation with the growing network of Alumni regional groups worldwide.

Nevertheless, there are several positive developments that can be highlighted:

- The AA has engaged with the existing regional groups and their points of contact, inviting them to work closer together, proposing several ways of supporting their activities, *inter alia*, by providing administrative and communication platform, channelling sponsoring or donation arrangement as well as creation of dedicated groups space on the Alumni website;
- Based on this communication and interest expressed by some regional groups’ representatives, the AA has been working on a possible meeting of the Alumni Regional Groups in Brussels, in autumn 2018;
- Alumni regional groups were re-launched or given new impetus in Poland and Romania;
- A new alumni regional group “Riviera-Med” is being formed in the South of France and bordering regions of Italy;
- The AA supported alumni events organised in California, US, Poland and in the Netherlands (fundraising event for the College), France and Italy;
- The AA have had regular exchanges also with a regional group in Spain, which showed interest to launch a similar mentoring programme as run by the Association at the regional level as well as to step up its activities in terms of funding support to selected Spanish students; and

- Alumni in London: Mr Nic Van der Marliere, General Representative of the Government of Flanders in the UK & Ireland, the College of Europe and the AA have been working together on an event for the alumni based in London and surroundings, scheduled to take place on 3 September 2018 at the Flanders House. Alumnus Stephen Kinnock MP (Charles IV promotion) will address the assembly.

i. Austrian Alumni Regional Group

The Austrian regional Group was relaunched in 2016 with new initiatives. New contact point for all alumni issues is alumni@bruegge.wien. Natalie Harsdorf and Axel Reidlinger are happy to get back to any questions and open for input and ideas for new events.

Initiative of an Austrian scholarship Action Plan 2018/19:

Austrian Government cut scholarships for Austrian Alumni a couple of years ago. This year we started an initiative to sponsor half a scholarship for the College of Europe year 2018/2019. After extensive efforts we have managed to put it up and also raise money for the next 5 years. Big thanks to all the Austrian Alumni that helped sponsor it!

The following alumni activities took in the period covered by this report:

- **May 2018:** Alumnus Alexander Schallenberg, Director of EU Affairs at the Austrian Ministry of foreign affairs gave a highly insightful speech followed by Q&A on current European issues. This came at a time when Austria is preparing for its presidency and priorities are to be set.
- **January 2018:** Lecture at the University of Vienna: The Institute and Platform for European Integration Research (EIF) invited all Anciens to a Vienna Lecture on the European Union on the topic of „Back to the Future? Franco-German Bilateralism in post-Brexit EU Politics“. Big thanks to Gerda Falkner, Head of the Institute for European Integration Research, University of Vienna who extended the invitation to the Anciens.
- **December 2017:** Our Christmas Get Together at a traditional Viennese Heurigen next to a beautiful Christmas Market at old AKH was fun.



- July 2017: Ancien Alexander Egger invited Michael Ikrath, member of the European Economic and Social Committee, to speak with the ancients Austria about his work and current European challenges. It was followed by a get together at the premises of Alexander's lawfirm.

- **May 2017:** DG for Competition of the European Commission, Johannes Laitenberger, gave an extraordinary insight into his work while having a typical Viennese breakfast with us on the rooftop of the Austrian Palace of Justice. Big thanks to all for the bright questions and to Johannes for taking the time.
- **May 2017:** "Pierre Harmel Lecture" by H.E. Herman Van Rompuy: Austrian Anciens were invited by the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE, H.E. Ambassador Paul Huynen and Dr. Med. Christine Huynen-Van der Borght, to attend the "Pierre Harmel Lecture" by H.E. Herman Van Rompuy, President Emeritus of the European Council, Belgian Minister of State and former Prime Minister of Belgium. It was an extremely interesting talk and following discussion on the future of Europe.



ii. Alumni Group in Denmark

In August 2017, the alumni group in Denmark had an informal gathering with drinks (Belgian beer to keep in the CoE spirit) in a Copenhagener pub called Taphouse.

In May 2018, the alumni had an event in the Old Stock Exchange co-hosted by the proprietor, the Danish Chamber of Commerce, about the "state of the union" of the EU; with a talk by the president of the Danish think-tank Europe (sponsored by Labour unions and business associations to help increase public awareness and support for the EU) followed by a social with drinks and light snacks.

iii. Alumni Regional Group in Italy

- Five best Italian students award ceremony - 11th July 2017



On 11th July, the five best Italian students of the Keynes Promotion were awarded by Sandro Gozi (State Secretary for European Affairs). The ceremony took place at the Italian PMO (Presidency of the Council of Ministers), with around 80 Anciens and future students in attendance. After Secretary Gozi's speech, Ms. Lucia Pasqualini, Head of Unit at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of selections and grants, and Michela Angeli, on behalf of the Italian Regional Group of the Alumni Association, took the floor. The ceremony was followed by a summer aperitif where future students and Anciens had the

chance to meet each other.

- Round Table in Milan on Food and Trade-related Issues – November 14, 2017

On Tuesday 14 November, the Milan Chapter of Group of the CoE Alumni Association organized a round table entitled “Ceta&Chips – Food between Innovation and the Precautionary Principle in the post-EXPO legacy”.

The event was kindly hosted by the Milan Office of Cleary Gottlieb Law Firm and was animated by three prominent discussants: Alberto Alemanno, Professor at HEC Paris/NYU and founder of “The Good Lobby”, Marco Gualtieri, founder and CEO of Global Food Innovation Summit “Seeds&Chips” and Francesco Rocchetti, Researcher at the Centre for Business Scenarios at Italy’s leading think tank ISPI.

Panellists passionately discussed current and prospect situation of food innovation and relevant trade-related issues, with particular emphasis on the Canada-EU Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). An engaging Q&A session led to an informal gathering. With thirty-five attendees, this event marks a milestone in the activities of the newly launched Alumni Chapter of Milan. The Anciens of the Italian Regional Group would like to thank the Cleary Gottlieb Law Firm, and particularly those CG Anciens that were involved in the organization, for their contribution to a successful event.

- MILAN – Christmas aperitif @Sheraton Diana hotel 9th of December 2017

On December 19, the Milan Chapter of the Italian Regional Group gathered for a pre-Christmas toast at the Sheraton Diana Majestic Hotel in Milan. About 30 alumni from several different promotions attended the event, ranging from Von Humboldt to Havel, Voltaire and Falcone & Borsellino. While enjoying refreshments, alumni lively explored options for future events.

- **ROME - Christmas event in Rome - UK Embassy – 12th December 2017**

The Italian Regional Group of the Alumni Association Christmas event kindly hosted on December 12 by British Ambassador at Villa Wolkonsky, Rome, was a great success. H.E. Ambassador Jill Morris and professor Enzo Moavero Milanesi - moderated by Deutsche Presse Agentur journalist, Mr. Alvisè Armellini - discussed on: "Brexit: challenge and opportunities" in front of more than 60 Alumni. Following an interesting and lively discussion and Q&A section, Alumni enjoyed refreshments together. Wines were kindly offered by Mondo del vino, Relais La Torre and Rapitalà.



- **Event "È l'Europa che ce lo chiede (?)"**

Took place at the Representation of the European Commission in Italy, in Rome, with Ms. Beatrice Covassi (Head of the European Commission representation to Italy), MP Mr. Alessandro Fusacchia (+Europa) and Mr. Gustav Hofer (film director/journalist) - 10th April 2018.

On 10th April, The Italian Regional Group organized the event "È l'Europa che ce lo chiede (?)", thanks to the hospitality of the Representation of the European Commission in Italy, in Rome, with our Alumni as speakers Ms. Beatrice Covassi (Head of the European Commission representation to Italy) and newly elected MP Mr. Alessandro Fusacchia (+Europa) with Mr. Gustav Hofer (film director/journalist) as a moderator. The event gathered around 30 Anciens from different promotions that stayed together for a aperitif, kindly offered by the Representation of the European Commission.



- **Rome - 16th May 2018 - Meeting with the LSE Alumni Association**

In the context of an inter-Alumni cooperation, the Italian Regional Group of the College of Europe Alumni Association has invited the Anciens to the LSE Alumni Association Italy Dinner @Wine Bar "Trimani", Rome.

- **Five best Italian students award ceremony - July 2018**

...is at present a "work in progress".

iv. Alumni Regional Group in Poland

The recently relaunched Alumni Regional Group in Poland met in 2017/2018 in several formats:



- Informal get together organized regularly once per month, aimed to allow existing community to get to know each other and provide a safe landing for new comers. It is much valued by international alumni moving to Warsaw, for whom integrating in a new city might be more challenging than for Polish nationals.
- Mixer meetings with alumni from other international universities in Warsaw, aimed to better integrate the community into Warsaw job market and society. This format is especially valuable for alumni who are open to opportunities in private sector, as it enables meeting people working in start-ups, innovation and technology field.
- Meeting with outstanding professionals from the field of NGOs, public sector, academia and business, aimed to give alumni a spectrum of career paths and enabling them to make a more informed career choices thanks to first-hand experience shared by the speaker. It is especially useful for those who are still exploring career possibilities and would like to hear such insights before making a long-term career decision.
- Meetings in the context of discussing gender issues at the workplace and sharing good practices regarding work-life balance. They are conducted in kid-friendly places allowing participation with small children. They are especially valued by men and women who are still searching for a way to be an outstanding professional while having a successful family life.
- Cooperation with Natolin campus in Poland. Participation of alumni in Natolin life allows current Natolin students to hear about „life after College” experience. It means participation of alumni in high-level conferences, Christmas meetings, as well as graduation ceremony of the respective promotion.

v. Alumni Regional Group in Romania



The Romanian Regional Group of the Alumni Association, based in Bucharest, aims to reunite COE Alumni from Romanian or in Romania, bringing together all, irrespective of origin. We aim to promote “L'esprit du Collège” by bringing together alumni from all nationalities. The group focuses on bringing alumni both through formal events such as: conferences, projects, gatherings with Embassies, Universities, NGO's, Romanian & EU Institutions, International organizations; and informal meetings through: networking evenings, dinners, meet and greet of new students.

The following alumni activities took in the period covered by this report:

- **October 2017:** College of Europe Romanian Alumni meeting with the Ambassador of Belgium in Romania;
- **November 2017:** College of Europe Romania Alumni formal gathering in Bucharest, Romania;
- **January 2018:** College of Europe Romania Alumni meeting with Angela Cristea, Chief of the European Commission delegation in Romania;
- **February 2018:** meeting with Olivia Taveirne , Alumni Association President Michaela Simakova and 2017/2018 generation Romanian students in Brugge;
- **March 2018:** launch of Romanian Alumni Regional Group social media pages:
- Looking ahead the Group is planning at present an informal Regional group gathering as well as a meeting with 2018/2019 Romanian students.

i. Alumni Regional Group in Stockholm

The regional CoE groupe in Stockholm, has arranged four gatherings during 2017/18. First we had an after work in mid-february last year, followed by a summer drink and Christmas drink. The alumni in Sweden organised another summer drink on Thursday 7 June at the lovely sunny rooftop bar Tak in the center of Stockholm. One of our alumni, Mr Ulf Bergström, distributed his first crime novel to all the participants, which was a nice surprise.



ii. Alumni activities in Switzerland

On 29 November 2017, 25 alumni enjoyed the Year-end fondue bash and on 6 December 2017, the alumni in Geneva got together to celebrate St Nicolas and had a dinner which

attracted 35 participants. Another cheerful get together event, in late summer, is currently in the pipelines.

iii. Alumni activities in London

In London, several alumni activities took place since spring 2017:

In July, a reception with the support of the French Ambassador at the French residence in London in July 2017 was organised. More than 100 Alumni attended. The reception took place in the presence of H.E. Ambassador Sylvie Bermann, who kindly hosted the reunion, and Nick Clegg, former Deputy Prime Minister. They both talked about the EU and the current situation of the UK in and out of the EU. Alumni then exchanged views on the negotiation process and strategies, and the implications for the different sectors or industries represented, before the traditional family picture was taken in the gardens of the Residence.

A little earlier, in April 2017, a breakfast event took place.

The breakfast event provides an opportunity for alumni based in London to discuss about the expected political, legal and economic consequences of the road to "Brexit" and the UK's exit. The event kicked off with a presentation by Nat Copsey, Head of Europe Research Group, FCO. Taking stock of the current political situation (and following on from the previous breakfast event organised shortly before the EU Referendum in the UK), alumni exchanged their views and experience of the potential challenges Brexit creates. The event gathered institutional stakeholders as well as representatives of the private sector. The event was made possible thanks to the kind support of Hunton & Williams and its Centre for Information Policy Leadership which hosted the breakfast at The Gherkins. The President of the Centre, Bojana Bellamy, moderated the discussion.

At present, the College and the Association are working with the House of Flanders in London to organise a reception on 3 September 2018 with Stephen Kinnock as guest speaker.

Further Information

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