



---

# NEWSLETTER

August 2004

Number 2

---

*This newsletter is a publication of the European Civil Society Network (CiSoNet). It contains information on project activities and events. It contains as well a listing of research reports, relevant papers and articles, and brief comments on recent, related books. CiSoNet (Contract No.: HPSE-CT-2002-60051) was officially launched on 1 February 2003. The project is coordinated by the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) and funded by the 5th Framework of the European Union. It aims to stimulate cross-disciplinary research concentrating on transnational dimensions of civil society. For further information please visit our website at the following address: <<http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de>>*

## EVENTS

A conference on *The Future of the European Polity*, organised by John Keane (co-ordinator of the CiSoNet research programme on governance and civil society in Europe), took place from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2004 in London. This conference was funded by the European Union's Fifth Framework Programme, under the auspices of Workpackage III, the "Civil Society Network Project", and hosted by the Centre for the Study of Democracy, with the assistance of the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (WZB) and the University of London's Birkbeck College. The conference addressed a variety of questions pertaining to the conceptualisation and dynamics of an emergent European polity; its aim was to clarify the geometry of the governmental 'boundaries' within which European civil society is

presently emerging. It dealt with issues such as the deficits in European democracy, and the problems of violence and political disintegration in Europe. Conference debates were further enhanced by a round table discussion dealing with the future of the European Union, and supplemented by two additional public lectures — a talk by Robert Cooper (Brussels) addressing the question of European military power and the creation of a European Army, and a talk by Pierre Rosanvallon (Paris) focussing on the future of democracy in Europe.

A detailed conference programme and a report on the event by John Keane are available from our website; see <<http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/activities.en.htm>>.

The conference papers are also available to CiSoNet members, who may download these from <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/members/research%20and%20minutes.htm>.

From 9 to 11 July 2004, the WZB working group on “Civil Society: Historical and Comparative Perspectives”, headed by Jürgen Kocka and Dieter Gosewinkel, hosted an international, interdisciplinary conference entitled *Civil Society and Gender Justice: Historical and Comparative Perspectives*. The conference was held at the WZB in Berlin. Karen Hagemann, from the University of Glamorgan (UK) and at present visiting scholar at the WZB, conceived, planned and organised this event in cooperation with Gunilla Budde from the Free University of Berlin and Dagmar Simon from the WZB. More than 90 scientists from 10 countries attended the conference. The goal of its organizers, within this setting, was to examine the concept of ‘civil society’ and the civil society project from a gender perspective; that is, to consider the historical conditions underlying and defining ‘gender perspective’, as well as its intercultural relevance, present meaning, and significance.

A comprehensive report on this conference (in German only!) has been drawn up by Ute Hasenöhrle and Heinrich Hartmann; it is available from <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de>.

The fourth CiSoNet conference on *Markets and Civil Society in Europe* will be held in Madrid from the 23rd to the 25th of September 2004. The organiser will be Víctor Pérez-Díaz, from the Analistas Socio-Políticos (ASP) Research Center, Madrid. The conference programme will include the presentation and discussion of 17 papers by well-known specialists in the field. More information may be obtained by contacting the ASP (*E-mail*: [asp@ctv.es](mailto:asp@ctv.es)).

A detailed programme as well as summaries of conference papers are available at our website; see <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/activities.en.htm>.

Research reports and conference papers will be available in advance to CiSoNet members, who may download these from <http://www.asp-research.com> and from <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/members/research%20and%20minutes.htm>.

Ton Nijhuis from the Duitsland Instituut, University of Amsterdam (DIA) will organise a workshop under the auspices of the European Civil Society Network tentatively entitled *Civil Society and the Family*. The 1 to 2 days long workshop is scheduled to be held at the end of January 2005. A preliminary structure of the workshop focuses on four core areas: (1) family as resource for social capital and skills, (2) family as transmitter or mediator of norms and values within social interaction processes, (3) family,

child and school education as a nucleus of civil society initiatives and actions, (4) relation between family and societal structures. The workshop programme should be available by the end of this year and retrievable from <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/activities.en.htm>.

Newsletter readers will be informed accordingly whenever the programme is accessible.

Arnd Bauerkämper from the Berlin School for Comparative European History (Berliner Kolleg für Vergleichende Geschichte Europas) (BKVGE) and Sven Reichardt from the University of Konstanz will organise a conference entitled *Paradox or Perversion? On the Historical Relations between Civil Society and Violence*. The conference is scheduled to take place in April 2005. More information may be obtained by contacting the BKVGE (E-mail: [zvge@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:zvge@zedat.fu-berlin.de)).

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

Dieter Gosewinkel from the WZB held a public lecture on “Civil Society – a perspective from its borders”, in June 2004. He was a guest of the Institute of Social and Economic History at the University of Munich.

Ken Newton, Professor at the University of Southampton, was a guest of the working group on ‘Civil Society: Historical and Comparative Perspectives’ at the WZB. He gave a talk on “Social Capital, Civil Society,

and Democratic Stability”, in July 2004. This lecture will be published and available soon as a WZB discussion paper.

Ashis Nandy, Professor at the University of New Delhi and Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin, and John Keane were guests of the working group on ‘Civil Society: Historical and Comparative Perspectives’ at WZB. Both held talks in July 2004. Ashis Nandy’s lecture dealt with “Reasons for a Post-Secular Democracy”; the subject of John Keane’s talk was “Democracy: The Rule of Nobody?”

John Keane held a further lecture in Berlin, in July, entitled “European Citizenship: Contested Histories, Current Trends, Future Perspectives”. He spoke at the opening ceremony of the Berlin School for Comparative European History (BKVGE).

Keane’s lectures may be downloaded from the CiSoNet website; see <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/members/public%20lectures.htm>.

## **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP REPORTS**

The following reports on activities organised within the European Civil Society Network are available online from CiSoNet: <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/activities.en.htm>.

Report on the conference, “The Future of the European Polity” (3-4 June 2003), by John Keane.

Report on the conference “Languages of Civil Society — Europe and Beyond” (6-8 November 2003), based on drafts by Peter Wagner and Jürgen Kocka, compiled by Agnes Arndt.

Report on the workshop, “European Polity and Governance” (5 November 2003), by John Keane.

Report on the workshop, “Europe Encountering the Other” (12-14 June 2003), by Dieter Gosewinkel and Hartmut Kaelble.

## **RESEARCH REPORTS**

Recently prepared research reports from the European Civil Society Network are available to CiSoNet members and can be viewed online or downloaded from our website:

<http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/members/research%20and%20minutes.htm>.

Patrizia I. Nanz: “Europolis. Towards a Public Sphere beyond the Nation State”, 2004.

Alex Warleigh: “Democratizing European Integration: Reasons to be Cheerful”, 2004.

Stephan Wernicke: “Au nom de qui?” — The European Court of Justice between Member States, Civil Society and Union Citizens”, 2004.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

Working papers produced by the European Civil Society Network, which have been presented at various

CiSoNet workshops or conferences, are available online to CiSoNet members; see <http://cisonet.wz-berlin.de/members/research%20and%20minutes.htm>.

Philippe C. Schmitter: “Imagining Alternative Future Politics for the European Union”, 2004.

Antje Wiener: “Evolving Norms of Constitutionalism: A Reflexive Approach”, 2004.

Dragica Vujadinović: “Democratic Deficits in the Western Balkans and Perspectives on European Integration”, 2004.

## **ARTICLES**

The following articles on civil society and related issues have been recently published by members and associated partners of the European Civil Society Network.

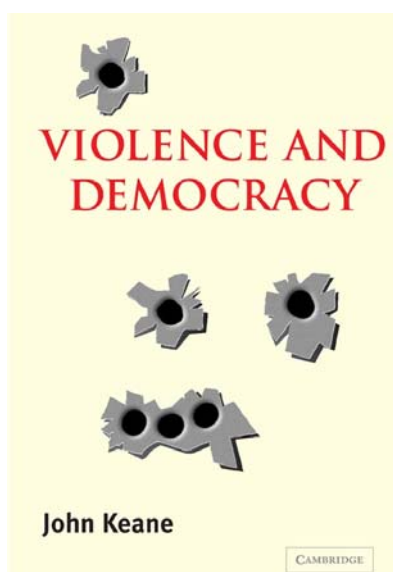
Víctor Pérez-Díaz, The Underdeveloped Duty Dimension of the European Citizenship, ASP Research Paper 53(b)/2004.

This paper is available at the ASP website; see <http://www.asp-research.com>.

## **BOOKS**

Ralph Jessen, Sven Reichardt and Ansgar Klein are joint editors of the volume *Zivilgesellschaft als Geschichte — Studien zum 19. und 20. Jahrhundert* (Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften,

2004). The case studies contained in this volume give some insight into the historical preconditions for, and manifestations, limitations and internal contradictions of civil society. Subject matter includes the origin of civil society values, the philanthropic traditions in Germany and the United States, the realm of conflict between civil society and the state in the period between the World Wars, and the contrast between civil society's promise of participatory power and real-world social injustice. Examples drawn from European and American history in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries provide the basis upon which these aspects are discussed.



*Violence and Democracy* is the title of John Keane's newly published work (Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press, 2004). In this provocative book, John Keane calls for a fresh understanding of the vexed relationship between democracy and violence. Taking issue with the common sense view that 'human nature' is violent, Keane shows why mature democracies do

not wage war upon each other, and why they are unusually sensitive to violence. He argues that we need to think more discriminatingly about the origins of violence, its consequences, its uses and remedies. He probes the disputed meanings of the term violence, and asks why violence is the greatest enemy of democracy, and why today's global 'triangle of violence' is tempting politicians to invoke undemocratic emergency powers. Throughout, Keane gives prominence to ethical questions, such as the circumstances in which violence can be justified, and argues that violent behaviour and means of violence can and should be 'democratised' - made publicly accountable to others, so encouraging efforts to erase surplus violence from the world.

## PERSONNEL

John Keane will join the WZB as a Senior Fellow / Research Professor for a three-year term from 2004 to 2007. Keane will spend several months of each academic year in Berlin working in cooperation and exchange with WZB research units related to issues of democracy, conflict, and civil society.

Milan Podunavac, Professor from the University of Beograd has been elected as the new Dean of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Beograd.

## **EDITOR'S NOTE**

This newsletter is published in conjunction with the European Civil Society Network (CiSoNet) project. The next edition is scheduled to appear in November 2004.

Editor:

Professor Jürgen Kocka  
President of the Social Science  
Research Center Berlin (WZB)

Editorial Office:

Agnes Arndt  
Social Science Research Center  
Berlin (WZB)

Queries or comments on this  
newsletter should be addressed to  
Agnes Arndt <[arndt@wz-berlin.de](mailto:arndt@wz-berlin.de)>