



# Europäische Akademie

zur Erforschung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen  
Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler GmbH

Direktor:  
Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Carl Friedrich Gethmann

# Newsletter

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## Editorial

*The Europäische Akademie documents its work in different publication forms. These include the Newsletter, the research report and the research programme. Whereas in the Newsletter subjects relating to the work of the academy are described in detail and meetings of the project groups of the academy as well as conferences are reported on currently, the biannual appearing research report resembles a business report. Here an elaborated survey of the complete projects and the organisation of the academy is given. A short and current survey can be found in the research programme. It is published twice a year in German and English giving a short overview of the working programme and the organisation of the academy. The working methods, aims, tasks, project and study groups, staff members and the council of the academy are introduced in a concise compendium.*

*With this newsletter, the German-speaking subscribers receive the current German research programme. The English version will be sent after revision to our readers out of the English-speaking part.*

*For further information on the work of the Europäische Akademie, current press releases as well as event announcements please visit our webpage [www.europaeische-akademie-aw.de](http://www.europaeische-akademie-aw.de).*

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## Focus

### A New Perspective on European Social Policy

Bernd v. Maydell

With the release of the final report "Enabling Social Europe" project on "European Social Policy (ESP)" of the Europäische Akademie is completed. The study examines how the paradigm of the 'enabling welfare state' might offer a new perspective for European social policy in the decades to come. The 'enabling' concept is perceived as going beyond that of mere 'activation', thus also embracing policies aimed at increasing personal autonomy, individual responsibility and social inclusion by endowing individuals with the resources and capabilities needed to manage and balance their life courses in a better way. Coming from a wide range of disciplines: economics, law, sociology, political science, and philosophy, the authors seek to shed new light on whether European social policy ought to play a role in the future and, if so, what sort of role that could be. They convincingly argue that despite an implicit normative consensus on the 'European social model', there is still room for a multifaceted world in which welfare regimes can maintain their own path-dependent ways of achieving a fair and just society with a high level of welfare for all.

#### ESP – An Interdisciplinary Project

On 8 December 2005, the Europäische Akademie will present the study "Enabling Social Europe" in Brussels. The study was designed and conducted by an interdisciplinary project group entitled "European Social Policy". The project group comprised experts in economics, law, philosophy, political and social sciences coming from Germany, Belgium, Poland, Finland and The Netherlands, namely: Professor Dr. Bernd von Maydell (chair), Dr. Katja Borchardt, Professor Dr. Klaus-Dirk Henke, Professor Dr. Ruud Muffels, Professor Dr. Michael Quante, Professor Pirkko-Liisa Rauhala, PhD, Dr. Gert Verschraegen, Professor Dr. Maciej Zukowski. The Project was coordinated by Dott. Rupert Leitner.

Anyone who has had experience with interdisciplinary work is familiar with the difficulties it entails. The first step is to overcome barriers resulting from conceptual discrepancies without neglecting the fact that one's own academic discipline will have a bearing on the objectives associated with a given project. The European Social Policy project group, however, did

not only have to clear away these interdisciplinary barriers, it also had to surmount obstacles rooted in the differing national and regional origins of its members.

Yet, as the work progressed, this manifoldness of the methodical approach proved helpful in identifying the many facets of the subject matter and in elaborating strategies for a future European social policy. That the project members were able to coalesce into a cooperative team is owed to the decisive contribution of the *Europäische Akademie* in providing an appropriate work frame.

#### The Controversial Issue of a European Social Policy

The research subject "European Social Policy" is a highly controversial issue of political debate. On the one hand, there is wide agreement that social policy ought to remain a task of national governments. This national view mainly has to do with fears that Europe could pose threats to one's own social protection system, say, in the wake of migration from east to west.



On the other hand, European social policy is often assessed as a given accomplishment – or, in any case, is thought to exist rudimentarily – and is thus perceived as an important prerequisite for the creation of a European identity in the minds of EU citizens. In so far, the European Social Model is evoked as a reality or at least an objective.

Such ambivalence in the assessment of a real or desired European social policy was highlighted by attempts to explain the “no” ballots of French and Netherlands voters in the referendum on the European Constitutional Treaty. Some observers identified people's fears that national social protection systems could be hollowed out by foreign migrants as a prime motive for the rejection of the Constitution. Conversely, others pointed out that the Treaty's extensive lack of a social policy dimension was a reason for the negative vote. And that was thought to hamper the citizen's ability to identify with the European Union, whereas a common EU social policy could strengthen the “state” element of the Union.

### Goals and Instruments of an 'Enabling Welfare State'

The background to this ambivalent assessment of a European social policy is the insufficient awareness that the EU already determines vital aspects of social policy – aspects that go beyond existing Community regulations governing the social security of migrant workers. But there is also a lack of clarity about the goals and instruments of an 'enabling' approach to social policy under conditions of globalisation. It was this background that heightened the attractiveness of the project theme, but simultaneously demanded highly complex approaches and analyses.

The comprehension of social policy goals and instruments has undergone sweeping changes over the past century. Originally, the overriding objective was to grant social benefits to avoid poverty and reduce inequality. Modern ideas about social policy are aligned with the concept of fundamental social rights of the individual. The aim is to foster the individual citizen's development within society, enabling his or her participation in societal life. Yet this aim cannot be achieved through the payment of social benefits alone. Rather, it requires a broad approach that also embraces education policy, family policy and labour market policy, as well as a number of others. The underlying concept is to couple the provision of support with the activation of beneficiaries' own efforts. In addressing a European social policy, this conceptual orientation of modern social policy must be taken into consideration. Accordingly, the study's title,

“Enabling Social Europe”, seeks to take account of all these factors.

This modern social policy concept geared to the development of the individual is able to rely on basic principles and values enshrined in the European Community treaties. It is underscored by the fundamental rights section of the Constitutional Treaty, but has also followed from the Community's previous treaty bases. Moreover, upon taking stock we see that, alongside its coordination law designed to secure worker mobility within the Community, the European Community exerts manifold additional influences on social policy such as, for instance, the reflex effects of the fundamental freedoms laid down in the EC Treaty. Thus the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg construed the free movement of goods and services to mean that statutory health insurance benefits can in principle be claimed in other EU member states. Which is why frequent reference is made to an emerging European market for healthcare benefits, despite the national alignment of healthcare systems.

### National and Supranational Social Policy

A common European element can also, however, be seen in the fact that social protection systems in EU member states concur with one another in important points. This is the assumption underlying the thesis of a uniform European Social Model. It would be verifiable through a comprehensive comparison of national social systems. Yet that task could not have been tackled by the project group within the allotted timeframe. Instead, the group had to confine itself to specific examples by examining and comparing sub-areas of social policy, namely health care, old-age security, family policy and poverty prevention, for two member states respectively. These comparative country studies, which included two transformation states, revealed many common features as well as numerous differences. A very distinct finding was that the individual states display differing measures of success in implementing the approach of the “enabling welfare state”. At the same time, the comparison shows that it is able to convey valuable ideas of how effective and less effective reforms could be designed.

The project group members all agreed that social policy requires ethical foundations, a main focus being the principles of personal autonomy and distributive justice. Such a social policy can serve to safeguard social cohesion and integration into society, and prompts the demand for a policy aimed at enabling the citizen. This demand relates to both the national and the European level. Its concrete consequences were illuminated by the project group with a view to the individual social policy fields covered

by the national comparison. The subsequently targeted objectives do not require a harmonisation of national social protection systems. These objectives can be advanced effectively by a policy aimed at converging national and supranational levels while simultaneously coordinating social policy with other policy fields. In the process, the Open Method of Coordination is indeed a suitable instrument if it observes the defined objectives and is not channelled into a hidden form of harmonisation.

Social policy at both national and supranational levels should seek to contribute to a society in which the goals of productivity and effectiveness are reconciled with the principles of fairness and justice. The ongoing development of a European social policy can help to accomplish this end.

Professor Dr. Bernd Baron von Maydell was director of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Social Law. Furthermore, von Maydell is chair of the project group “European Social Policy” of the Europäische Akademie.



## Working Groups

### Environmental Noise

On its recent progress meetings on 2nd September and 24 October the project group finalised a great deal of its scientific work. The members narrowed and adopted their conclusions and interdisciplinary recommendations for the actors' level of future traffic and noise policy. The considerations were made on the basis of a preliminary integration of the main text, which still needs for minor structural and editorial refining. Additionally, the most recent developments concerning the implementation of the EC environmental noise directive into German federal law were discussed and will be commented in a special section of the project group's final report. The draft overall results showed no grave disagreements with the relevant statements of the “Sachverständigenrat für Umweltfragen (SRU)” which recently published its special report on Environment and Road Traffic.

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### Expert meeting “Organ shortage – is death on the waiting list inevitable?”

In this summer the results of the project group “Incentives for organ donation” of the Europäische Akademie were presented to a review panel of experienced colleagues for a critical review. It was followed by a meeting at the premises of the academy in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler on 30 September and 1st October. The meeting allowed discussion

of the results of the project group with a broader interdisciplinary expert panel. Oral reviews were given by Professor Dr. Ulrich Schroth (Universität München), Professor Dr. Dr. Nikolaus Knoepffler (Universität Jena), Dr. Dr. Tade Spranger, Bonn, Professor Dr. Dr. Xavier Rogiers (Universität Hamburg) and Professor Dr. Dr. Marlies Ahlert (Universität Halle). In addition written statements of Dr. Wolfgang Ellerbeck (Evangelisches Krankenhaus Oldenburg) and Professor Dr. Gilbert Thiel (University of Basel) were discussed. Several aspects of the fruitful discussion will be included in the study, for example the recommendation for an improved protection in insurance law for live organ donors. Several papers of the external speakers will be published in the publication series "Graue Reihe" of the Europäische Akademie.

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## News

### Presidency

Carl Friedrich Gethmann, director of the Europäische Akademie and professor of philosophy at the Universität Duisburg-Essen was elected President of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Philosophie e.V. (DGPhil – German Society for Philosophy) for the period from 2006 to 2008. The election took place at the XXth German Congress for Philosophy in Berlin on 28 September 2005. The tasks of the new president are inter alia the organisation and implementation of the XXIst German Congress for Philosophy at his home university of Duisburg-Essen in 2008.

The DGPhil was founded at the IIIrd German Congress for Philosophy in Bremen in 1950 and is located in Leipzig. As an organisation for experts of philosophy and its related fields the aim of the DGPhil is to rouse the interest in the work of philosophy. The organisation represents university members researching and teaching philosophy as well as scientists of non-university research institutions, and moreover the philosophical expert associations such as the Kant Society and the Association of Philosophy Teachers. Furthermore, in regular conferences the "forum for philosophy" serves as a platform for the exchange of scientific results achieved in the field of philosophy.

At the XXth German Congress for Philosophy Carl Friedrich Gethmann conducted the colloquium "The new human. Ethical problems of genetic research and biotechnology („Der >neue< Mensch. Ethische Probleme der Genforschung und Biotechnologie").

### Nomination

Stephan Lingner had been nominated as "Expert Reviewer" for the 4th Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007" of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is responsible for the review of selected draft chapters on "The Physical Science Basis" (Working Group I), on "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" (Working Group II) as well as on "Mitigation of Climate Change" (Working Group III).

Stephan Lingner was also appointed a member of the advisory board on the "Collaborative Program on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change", run by the Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State University, USA.

### Verlängerung der Vernissage

Im Rahmen des „Kultursommers Rheinland-Pfalz" eröffnete der Verein der Förderer der Europäischen Akademie GmbH am 12. Mai die Ausstellung „Verborgenes Spiel" – Bilder von Dr. Marliese Wagner. Aufgrund großen Interesses wurde die Ausstellung nun bis Mitte Januar 2006 verlängert. Die promovierte Naturwissenschaftlerin Wagner studierte Biologie und Chemie. Ihre Bilder sind in Themenwahl und Technik eine Symbiose aus Wissenschaft und Kunst. Auf der Suche nach einer Ästhetik, die naturwissenschaftliche Erkenntnisse und Kunst direkt verbindet, entwickelte sie ihre einzigartigen Farbpigmente: Farben und Strukturen entstehen durch chemische Reaktionen direkt auf dem Bildträger. Diese Technik wurde von Kunsthistorikern als Malen ohne Pinsel bezeichnet. Die Künstlerin nennt es den ‚gelenkten Zufall'.

Die Ausstellung ist montags bis donnerstags in der Zeit von 9 bis 15 Uhr in den Räumen der Europäischen Akademie zu besichtigen.

Weitere Informationen unter:  
[www.europaesche-akademie-aw.de](http://www.europaesche-akademie-aw.de).

### Scientific Advisory Board

On 28 October the Scientific Advisory Board of the Europäische Akademie held its 21st meeting at the premises of the academy in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler. Amongst others, the final report of the project "Nanomaterials, Nanodevices, Nanocomputing. Determination of Present Position and Perspectives" was adopted and will be presented to the public and press in the near future.

### Ahrtalgespräch

Zum Thema „Aufbruch des Glaubens oder Religionsspektakel?" veranstaltete der Verein der Förderer der Europäischen Akademie in Zusammenarbeit mit der Stadt Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler zum dritten Mal in Folge das Ahrtalgespräch im Rathaussaal der Stadt Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler. Nach der Begrüßung durch den „Hausherrn" Dr. Tap-

pe diskutierten die Referenten Professor Dr. Klaus-M. Kodalle (Philosophisches Institut, Jena) und Professor Dr. Thomas Schmidt (Lehrstuhl für Religionsphilosophie, Frankfurt a.M.) dieses Thema unter verschiedenen Gesichtspunkten. Dabei gab es sowohl unter den Referenten als auch anschließend mit dem Publikum eine angeregte Disputation über dieses teilweise sehr persönliche Thema, die von Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Carl Friedrich Gethmann, Direktor der Europäischen Akademie, moderiert wurde.

Professor Dr. Kodalle stellte in seinem Vortrag, ausgehend von unterschiedlichen gesellschaftlichen Massen-Erscheinungen wie Trauer beim Tod einer prominenten Persönlichkeit (Tod des Papstes) oder Weltkirchentag die Frage, welche emotionale Grundlage in der Gesellschaft diese Erscheinungen ermöglicht. Er sieht diese als Ausdruck eines Verlangens nach Autorität, charismatischen Gestalten und als Sehnsucht nach Führung. Diesem Gefühl des Defizits würde von z.B. Jugendlichen (beim Tod des Papstes) mit dem Wunsch nach etwas Heiligem und Feierlichem begegnet.

Eine Funktion der Religion sieht Professor Kodalle demnach darin, eine Sicherheit und Stabilisierung des Selbstwertes angesichts der sozialen und politischen Gefährdungen zu geben. Dieser funktionalen Bestimmung Gottes setzte er einen Grundsatz Kierkegaards entgegen, der besagt, dass das Gottesverhältnis für Lebenszwecke nicht in Dienst zu nehmen sei. Die individuellen Bedürfnisse eines Menschen dürften nicht mit der Gottesidee in Zusammenhang gesetzt werden. Kodalle forderte, dass der Mensch eine Selbstinstrumentalisierung („Opfertod" für einen bestimmten „Sinn") beenden solle und das Gottesverhältnis als Ermutigung für ein Eigenverständnis als „Selbstzweck" begreifen solle.

Professor Dr. Schmidt betonte bei der Beobachtung des großen Interesses der Weltöffentlichkeit am Tod von Papst Johannes Paul II. sowie des großen Medienaufgebots am Weltjugenttag die seiner Meinung nach „paradoxe Gleichzeitigkeit von traditioneller Religiosität und Moderne". Die Medien hätten gezeigt, dass es eine ungebrochene Vitalität und Attraktivität einer 2000 Jahre alten religiösen Tradition inmitten einer säkularen Gesellschaft gäbe. Diese Ereignisse bewiesen, dass die Gewissheit, die Moderne sei mit säkularer Kultur gleichzusetzen, erschüttert werden könne. Dennoch sei die heutige Gesellschaft eindeutig als pluralistisch zu verstehen und eine Gleichzeitigkeit von traditioneller Religion und moderner Lebenswelt damit gegeben.

Die „postsäkulare" Gesellschaft (Habermas) müsse bereitstellen, so Schmidt, dass religiöse und säkulare Bürger unter gleichen und fairen Bedingungen am öffentlichen Diskurs partizipieren könnten. Dabei müsse von beiden Seiten Offenheit und Verständ-

nis für die jeweils andere Position gezeigt werden. Einen wechselseitigen Respekt könnten die Religionen und Konfessionen von ihren säkularen Mitbürgern allerdings nur dann einfordern, wenn sie sich diesen Respekt auch untereinander wechselseitig zugeständen und nicht im Namen der einzig wahren und authentischen Religion oder Religiosität verweigerten.

### Book Presentation

On 8 December, 2005, the Europäische Akademie GmbH will present the report "Enabling Social Europe" to the public in Brussels. The volume No. 26 of the series "Wissenschaftsethik und Technikfolgenbeurteilung" (Ethics of Science and Technology Assessment) is the result of the Akademie's project group "European Social Policy". In Brussels the members of the project group will summarize the main parts of the book and will give an overview over the most important recommendations they focused on in their work.

The report will be held by Professor Dr. jur. Bernd von Maydell, formerly Max-Planck-Institut für ausländisches und internationales Sozialrecht, Professor Dr. Ruud Muffels, Tilburg Institute for Social and Socio-economic Research, Tilburg University, and Professor Pirkko-Liisa Rauhala, PhD, Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of Helsinki/University of Tartu. The talks will be introduced by Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. Carl Friedrich Gethmann, director of the Europäische Akademie.

Further information is available under: [www.europaeische-akademie-aw.de](http://www.europaeische-akademie-aw.de)

### Book Series

The 26th volume of the book series "Wissenschaftsethik und Technikfolgenbeurteilung" of the Europäische Akademie was published recently:

B. von Maydell, K. Borchardt, K.-D. Henke, R., Leitner, R. Muffels, M. Quante, P.-L. K. Rauhala, G. Verschraegen, M. Zukowski: *Enabling Social Europe*. Springer-Verlag Berlin 2005 ISBN 3-540-29771-5

### Graue Reihe

Recently volume 38 of the publication series "Graue Reihe" of the Europäische Akademie has been issued:

A. Gethmann-Siefert, St. Huster (Hrsg.) *Recht und Ethik in der Präimplantationsdiagnostik*, 7/05

### Lectures

Thorsten Galert

22.9.05 „Consequences of Neuro-Enhancement for Personal Self-Concepts". Klausurwoche "Ethische, rechtliche und soziale Aspekte des Neuro-Enhancements" im Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst

Carl Friedrich Gethmann

28.9.05 „Einleitung in das Kolloquium ‚Der >neue< Mensch. Ethische Probleme der Genforschung und Biotechnologie“: XX. Deutscher Kongress für Philosophie „Kreativität“, Technische Universität Berlin

11.10.05 „Vertrautheit und umsichtiger Naturumgang“: Workshop der Interdisziplinären Arbeitsgruppe „Zukunftsorientierte Nutzung ländlicher Räume". Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften

10.11.05 „Das abendländische Vernunftprojekt und die Pluralität der Kulturen". Universität Paderborn

16.11.05 „Die Rolle der Logik in der BioEthik – am Beispiel der Diskussion um den moralischen Status des Embryo". Philosophisches Institut der Universität Bielefeld

Felix Thiele

22.6.05 „Probleme der Bioethik: Gentherapie und Präimplantationsdiagnostik". Franz-Haniel Gymnasium, Duisburg

1.7.05 "Is Ethics Culture-Dependent?". 8th World Congress of Biological Psychiatry, 28.6 – 3.7.2005, Wien

5.10.05 „Ethische Überlegungen zur Reform des Gesundheitswesens". Klinik am Hellweg, Bad Sassendorf

### Personalities



Margarethe Hofmann-Antenbrink, born in Bochum, started her study as foundry engineer in Duisburg in 1974 after educated as technician for metallography in Berlin and worked in industry for several years. She then moved to the Technische Universität Berlin and studied materials science and finished her doctorate on mechanisms in sintering at the Max Planck Institut für Metallforschung (Metal Science) in Stuttgart. After having two children, she moved away from research activities and build up her own consulting activities (MAT SEARCH) in Switzerland. Since several years she is supporting companies in Germany and Switzerland with technical data and future technology trends in all fields of materials technology, especially in metals and ceramics. To improve the European relationship she is also active as board member of materials science societies in Germany and France. Since about five years she has turned her interest strongly to nano- and biomaterials (especially drug delivery). As scientific coordinator she has launched and conducted several research projects in this field in Switzerland and in the EU Framework programs. She is individual member of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW) and new member of their Scientific Advisory Board, chairperson of the Biotechnology Advisory Board of AO Foundation (osteosynthesis) and member of the Scientific Advisory Board of GKSS Forschungszentrum.

Since 2002 Dr.-Ing. Margarethe Hofmann-Antenbrink is member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Europäische Akademie.

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