

# The European Diplomatic Programme: 11th Edition (2010-2011)

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# 1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

## ***1.1 History and main principles of the European Diplomatic Programme (EDP)***

The European Diplomatic Programme (EDP) is now entering its 11th year. It was first established in November 1999 by the former Political Committee (doc 10509/00). To take account of developments since then, a revised set of principles governing the EDP (doc. 6488/09) was agreed in February 2009 by the Working Party on “CFSP Administrative Affairs and Protocol”.

It is worth recalling here the three main aims of the EDP:

- To create personal networks among European diplomats;
- To raise common diplomatic awareness with regard to a specifically European dimension of diplomacy.
- To provide a learning environment where officials can be trained within an original framework which has no direct parallel within the national setting.

## ***1.2 Target Group***

The EDP's courses are aimed at diplomats of all national Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as Commission and Council Secretariat officials. Priority is given to the training of junior diplomats and officials.

### **1.3 Curriculum and training methods**

Each participant is granted the opportunity to enlarge and to deepen his or her competence with regard to EU affairs through participation in programmes with leading academic experts and national and EU personnel. As far as possible, teaching is based on practical learning, with an emphasis on case studies, as well as simulation of and real participation in multilateral negotiations. The EDP must enable participants to reflect on:

- the purpose and manifestations of European integration;
- the nature of difficulties encountered and the reasons for them;
- the reconciliation of political efficiency with democratic legitimacy;
- the distinction of authentic European interests from the heterogeneous mix of national interests;
- the nature and dynamics of the CFSP and the external policies of the EU.

This practical approach is complemented by the involvement of academic experts and senior officials from national and European Institutions, in order to give the programme intellectual rigour. Research and training institutions are invited to collaborate with EDP managers in the implementation of the programme.

The curriculum comprises, inter alia, the following subjects:

- EU external relations
- The Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
- The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and crisis management
- Political dialogue
- EU decision-making processes
- EU internal negotiations
- EU negotiations with non-EU partners

## **1.4 Programme supervision**

During the programme, the Training Directors follow closely the work of the participants.

A certificate is awarded to the participants upon completion of the course, on behalf of the EDP managers, by the closing Presidency (Module V). A remark specifying the number of modules attended will be indicated for those participants who have missed one or two modules. No certificate will be awarded to participants who miss more than two modules.

## **1.5 EDP Forum**

Information on the EDP can also be found online: <https://edp.consilium.europa.eu/>

Following selection, EDP participants will be invited to register on the EDP Forum website, which is exclusively for the use of EDP participants and Training Directors. This website provides further information about current and past programmes, and allows participants to share messages and contact details with others involved in the EDP.

In order to deepen the network of personal contacts created by the programme, an annual alumni directory is provided on the EDP Forum. The Forum is regularly updated by the Council Secretariat.

## **2. 11<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF THE EDP**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Edition will take place under the Presidencies of Belgium and Hungary. The programme starts on [26-28 September 2010 in Bruges]. The last meeting will be from ..... May 2011 in Budapest. The first and last meeting will be organised in conjunction with the twice yearly informal meeting of the Training Directors.

### ***2.1 Dates of the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition***

Module I

[26-28 September 2010, Bruges], Belgium

Module II

[18 - 22 October 2010], Brussels, Belgium

Module III

Between November 2010 and March 2011, exchange visits to Member States

Module IV

[ ..... April 2011, Florence, Italy]

Module V

[ .....May 2011, Budapest], Hungary

## **2.2 Central theme for the 11th EDP**

The central theme of the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of EDP will be “New systemic challenges for the EU: external action coherence”. These challenges concern in particular multilateralism, financial stability, sustainable development and EU representation and participation in international forums.

What kind of multilateralism for the EU? The EU's commitment to multilateralism is a defining principle of its external policy. Taking international cooperation as a precondition for meeting numerous global challenges, the EU has a clear interest in supporting the continuous evolution and improvement of the tools of global governance.

The management of the impact and the aftermath of the financial and economic crisis has been a central topic on the EU Agenda for the last two years. The European Council confirmed in its last meeting on 17 June 2010 that Member States are committed to ensuring financial stability by addressing the gaps in regulation and supervision of financial markets.

Sustainable development remains a fundamental objective of the EU under the Lisbon Treaty.

Regarding EU representation in international forums, it is important under the Lisbon Treaty to ensure continuing participation in building a rules-based international order.

## **2.3 Preliminary programme**

Detailed programmes for the five modules will be issued several weeks before each module takes place.

### **Module I: [..... September 2010], Bruges, Belgium**

An initial plenary session, in which also the Training Directors will participate, will give the broad outline of the meeting activities [26-28 September]. The main theme of this module will be how the EU can promote effective multilateralism within international/regional organisations. The EU is acting at global level, advocating that measures are internationally consistent, particularly in the UN and G8, G20, WTO, NATO and in partnerships with bodies such as ASEAN and Mercosur.

Participants will be divided into working groups on various sub-themes and will be asked to produce a report summarising their discussions.

This event will coincide with the first informal Training Directors meeting.

### **Module II: [18-22 October 2010], General Secretariat of the Council and European Commission, Brussels, Belgium**

Under the topics Economic and Financial Security and Sustainable Development, the Council Secretariat and the Commission will organise a wide-ranging programme of presentations on topics related to financial international regulation and security, economic and sustainable development, Energy, R&T, ICT, outer space, migratory flows, organised crime, etc. The programme will allow for question and answer sessions and will include some working groups. In addition to the central theme, the Brussels module will also include sessions on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Participants will be asked to draft a report summarising their discussions.

### **Module III: Between November 2010 and March 2011**

(Exchange programme between Member States of the European Union)

The exchange visits have multiple aims. Chief among these are to get to know the decision-making process of another Member State or EU Institution, to adopt the position of another Member State or Institution with respect to the theme of the programme, and to network with counterparts from another Member State or Institution.

Each host authority is requested to send out, a few weeks before the beginning of the third module, all necessary material (documents, notes, etc.) related to the interests of the EDP participant being received. This will enable him or her to prepare in advance, and thereby get the most from the exchange module.

### **Module IV: [26-28 April, Florence, Italy]**

(Negotiation exercise)

Module IV consists of a simulated negotiation in which the young diplomats will represent the interests of the Member State or Institution that hosted them in the preceding module. The assignment is thus designed to enable them to learn directly and concretely how these interests are handled during multilateral negotiations. The negotiation training will be provided by the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and The Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael. Participants will be asked to draft a final report outlining the results of the negotiations. This report will be used to draft during Module V a Strategy Paper for the Council.



## **Module V: [last week of May 2011], Budapest, Hungary**

(Final module and evaluation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition)

The fifth Module will consist of a panel discussion on the main theme of the programme followed by a question and answer session with the participants. The information gathered during the previous modules of the EDP will be the basis of this discussion. The participants, based on the final report drafted during Module IV will then draft and present a Strategy Paper for the Council concerning measures to be taken in the context of the main theme of the programme.- which model for effective EU participation and defence of its interests, priorities and values.

After the presentations, certificates will be handed over.

This event will coincide with the second informal Training Directors meeting.

## **3. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE 11<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

### **3.1 Procedure**

EU Member States, the Council Secretariat and the Commission are each invited to nominate two participants for the 11<sup>th</sup> EDP Edition, plus one reserve candidate. Where possible, any spare places on the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition – up to a maximum of 58 participants – will be reallocated to reserve candidates on a lottery basis. All nominated candidates must be available to attend all five modules as listed above.

Training Directors/EDP coordinators should arrange for the application form to be completed for each candidate and returned by **16 July 2010** to the MFA of Belgium