

First CREST Conference/VideoConference:

'The Role of the United Kingdom in the European Union: Reflections on the British Presidency'

Convenor: Dr Vassiliki Koutrakou, Director of CREST

The first CREST Conference took place on May 8 1998, at the closing stages of the British Presidency of the European Union and was funded by the School of Modern Languages and Suffolk County Council. It involved speakers from the European Union Institutions, policy analysts and academics debating the subject of 'The EU and the UK: Reflections on the British Presidency'. The traditional conference scheme was supplemented by a pioneering videoconference live link with the Brussels Cyber Theatre for a two-hour live discussion between panels and audiences in Brussels and at UEA, Norwich.

Specific topics included: the UK and EU enlargement; relations with CEEC's and CIS; EU Foreign and Security policies; relations with the USA and Russia; political integration prospects; EU cultural cooperation; and EMU and the UK.

A video of the conference was made and is available for viewing at the [UEA library](#).

The conference proceedings were also subsequently published: Vassilki Koutrakou, ed., *The European Union and Britain, Debating the Challenges Ahead* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 2000) ISBN 0-333-77658-5

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'The Role of the United Kingdom in the European Union: Reflections on the British Presidency'

Convenor: Dr Vassiliki Koutrakou, Director of CREST

Venue: Lecture Theatre 1, University of East Anglia, Norwich, and Brussels CyberTheatre

Date: 7 May 1998

Conference Programme

8.50 Registration

9:05 Welcome Speech by Professor Roger Pipe-Fowler Dean elect of School of Modern Languages & European Studies, UEA

9:10 Conference Address by Dr Vassiliki Koutrakou, CREST Director UEA

9:15 1st Session Chair: Dr John Greenaway, School of Economics and Social Studies, UEA

Speakers in Norwich

Clive Needle, MEP, Recorded speech, 'Britain and the EU'

Jeremy Rand, European Officer, Norfolk County Council, 'British Identity and European Integration'

Professor Andrea Bosco, South Bank University, 'Cultural and Political Integration with Reference to the British Federalist Tradition'

Dr Martin Holmes, Oxford University, co-chairman of The Bruges Group, 'The Single Currency: Evaluating Europe's Monetary Experiment'

11:00 Coffee Break

11:15 2nd Session, Chair: Professor David Seddon, School of Development Studies, UEA

Speakers In Norwich

Professor Irene Brennan, University of Westminster, 'Democratisation in Russia: An Assessment of European Union Approaches'

Jackie Gower, Thames Valley University, 'Enlargement: The Current Agenda'

Professor Emil Kirchner, University of Essex, NATO or CFSP/WEU?'

Kevin Wright, University of Essex, 'British and European Defence'

13:00 LUNCH

14:00 3rd Session/VideoConference, Hosted by: Dr V Koutrakou & Lucie Emerson, UEA.

Speakers in Brussels

Christopher Wilkinson, European Commission, DG XIII, 'Internet Self-Governance-Who does what?'

Stanley Crossick, The European Policy Centre, 'Britain in Europe: A Brussels perspective'

Dr Michael Emerson, London School of Economics, former EU Ambassador to Russia, 'The Euro and the UK'

Dr Daniel Gros, University of Frankfurt and Deputy Director of the Centre for European Policy Studies, Brussels, 'European Monetary Integration'

Question Time: General discussion between panels and audiences in both
Norwich and Brussels

16:00 Conference Close and Tea