

- The Left would direct foreign policy in a red-green coalition, warns Olof Ehrenkrona.
- Göran Lenmarker new chairman for the Foundation.
- Eva Gustavsson on the significance of free elections.
- About the importance of freedom on the Internet.

## Newsletter 1/2010:

### ”We got results in all prioritised areas”

#### A summary of the Swedish EU-chairmanship

**W**hen Sweden took on the EU chairmanship this summer, the financial crisis was already imminent. We didn't know how the Lisbon treaty would proceed. We didn't know what bumpy road lied ahead of us to the Copenhagen Climate Summit. We were going to establish a Baltic Sea strategy and a Stockholm Program. In addition, we were going to further push the enlargement of the EU. Thus, many difficult issues lied ahead of us.

The catch phrase of the chairmanship was “We take on the challenge”. And so we did, indeed.”

Climate change was on top of our agenda during the entire fall. Once arriving at the Climate Summit in Copenhagen, we did so with a string mandate. The EU had long term goals of cutting omission and was prepared to decrease our omission further, had other countries done the same. In addition, we promised to economically contribute to the efforts of the developing countries.

The EU arrived at Copenhagen as a united force with high ambitions. We left disappointed with a too weak agreement. Hopefully, this year's climate summit in Mexico may get us further.

The Swedish chairmanship was also to follow up the work to counter the financial crisis. Now was the time to find ways out of crises – towards better public finances.

In retrospect, we can see that we have proceeded far. We now have more transparent



*Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt and José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission.  
Foto: Pawel Flato*

rules strengthening our resilience to coming crises. Once the recovery is secured, we will become even stronger.

In spite the Irish people's voting in favour of the Lisbon treaty, this fall turned into institutional chaos. The Czech President raised new preconditions for signing. There were long discussions on the high level seats which came with the treaty. I am not exaggerating when calling it a relief once the treaty was finally implemented. ▶

The EU-chairmanship was a marvellous challenge of a kind you seldom meet in life. I am proud that we managed to get results which by far exceeded our expectations. We got a strong mandate to combat climate change. We monitored the financial crisis. We introduced a Baltic Sea Strategy. We got the Stockholm program for judicial and domestic issues. We strengthened EU as a global actor and paved the way for further enlargement. We implemented the Lisbon treaty and managed to reach agreement on two new leaders – a permanent chairman and a “Minister for Foreign Affairs”.

The European Union now enters a new era. Its development will be interesting to follow – from outside.

*Text: Fredrik Reinfeldt,  
Prime Minister*

*Translation: Evelina Lorentzon*



*At the JHF summer reception on June 22, Margaretha af Ugglas (to the left), former Minister for Foreign Affairs and retiring Chairman of the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation (2002-2010), was cordially thanked for her services by Gunilla Carlsson, Minister for Development Co-operation and vice Chairman of the Moderate party.*

*For more pictures from the reception, visit [www.hjalmarsonfoundation.se](http://www.hjalmarsonfoundation.se)*

## Newsletter 1/2010:

# Five questions to Göran Lennmarker

*Succeeding former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Margaretha af Ugglas, Göran Lennmarker, Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs, has been appointed new chairman for the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation. Pär Henriksson, the Moderaterna Head of Communications, and Linda Siverbo, involved in Latin America issues, join him as new members of the board.*

### **What do you hope to achieve as chairman of the Foundation?**

First, I hope to conclude the successful work which is already in progress in the Balkans and in Latin America. Second, I hope to be able to strengthen our involvement in the far east of Europe and in Asia.

### **What challenges are the party affiliated democracy foundations facing?**

It is a challenge working in an undemocratic country such as Belarus. In addition, in weak democracies suffering from corruption, it is difficult to build parties with an democratic internal structure. However, there are of course good examples. Look at the Baltic states and how they, in a very short time, transited from being under Soviet rule to becoming three democracies, belonging to the EU, the Council of Europe and Nato.

### **To what extent do the Foundation's operations rely on the outcome of this year's election?**

The public funding is linked to the election result which means that the Foundation gets more money as Moderaterna gets more votes. This is the only distribution key possible. How could you find an authority able to fairly judge between political parties!?

### **This is your last term in the Parliament. What do you intend to do, besides being the chairman of the JHF?**

An international involvement, I hope...

Newsletter 6/2010:

# Your vote counts - also in the field of foreign policy



*In the solid, bipolar world of the cold war, the Social Democratic Party easily shaped its place. In the modern, multi-polar world with its embedded dynamic and accelerated change, they seem increasingly lost.*

Lars Ohly, the Left Party leader would like to see the EU dissolved. He urges Sweden to serve as a frontrunner by abandoning the Union. He wants Sweden to leave Afghanistan and his stance on foreign and security policies finds its roots in the infamous socialist hostility towards the US and towards all kinds of Western co-operation. On important globalization issues, the Left Party does not only oppose every force driving the economic development and the combat against policy – quite often he even opposes the development in itself. “The Left’s main mistake was not to embrace globalization”, confided to me the nowadays retired Left parliamentarian Johan Lönnroth in a debate in Gothenburg a few years ago.

Embracing their communist inheritance, the Left Party has so far remained in the outskirts of Swedish foreign policy. On these issues, there has been a clear line between the fully democratic parties and the Left Party. Not anymore. Through the Red and Green coalition, the party is granted the opportunity to shape Swedish foreign and security policies, on values that are far from our view of democracy and human rights. This will

create an uncertainty of the Swedish position on core security and our reputation in the world.

The Red and Green coalitions demand for the US to dismantle all its military bases indicates that Ohly has already gained significant influence in the area of global security. It is notable that the left abstain, almost automatically, from posing the same demands on Russia – despite Russia’s already founding bases on the occupied Georgian territory.

The interpretation of this in the surrounding world is hardly up for speculation. The image of Sweden as a reliable partner for freedom, peace and security will get blurred, if not entirely erased. Both within the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party, there are strong fractions that share the Left Party’s hostility towards the EU, the US and the transatlantic co-operation. When Pierre Schori (S) protests the Swedish participation in Afghanistan, he is not alone. Although the party congress majority supported the party leadership, those with different views form an influential minority. In the Green Party, there is an equally strong minority in favour of leaving the EU and returning to the par- ▶

ty's traditional hostility towards the EU. There are, thus, several potential Trojan horses in the other parties within the Red and Green coalition that are ready to support the Left Party's proposals and further tear down the credibility in the Swedish foreign- and security policy and our participation in the European co-operation.

Led by a Red and Green government Sweden would become less open and more inward looking. The European policy would be characterized by passiveness. Ignorance and pessimism would dominate the view of globalization and its many challenges. Fear would silence Sweden's voice in the international debate on democracy and human rights. This is especially true for the "new" areas where the Alliance government has made Sweden a role model, such as the important issue of a free internet.

The Alliance has put Sweden in the midst of the European co-operation. The Swedish relevance has increased due to a stronger presence and a higher degree of involvement. With the Red and Green coalition, Sweden would play another part, and be left out. This would neither benefit Sweden nor the EU; as we know that the European Union is as strong as the involvement of its member states.

Sweden would also risk losing ground in the globalization process and drown in the waves of globalization instead of continuing to surf on them. A main reason for our rapid economic development, compared to many other European countries, is our openness to the rest of the world. With the Left at the helm of the government our country would take on a much more restrained stance towards the integration process which is the main driving force in the globalization process. We would, surely, become a break instead of a driving force.

The world may not notice this change of mind but in the long run, Sweden would lose in competition and as well as its international relevance.

The last years' intense reform policies in development aid are perhaps one of the strongest legacies of the Alliance. A Red and Green government, containing the very same politicians who have opposed all of the steps taken – including the focus on fewer countries, the combat against corruption, the work to increase transparency and the prioritization of humanitarian aid – would most likely cut back reforms and discontinue further reforms.

Among the most notable changes in the political arena during the last four years, is the Social Democrat's lack of initiative in the field of foreign policy. In 2007, the party presented its own alternative declaration

on foreign policy. However, since 2009, the party has, in essence, left the Left party's Hans Linde to draft the view of the entire Red and Green coalition on foreign policy. The spokesman of Social Democratic Party on foreign policy does not even hold a permanent seat on the executive board



of the party but needs to be called in to the meetings.

This is an almost unbelievable change of scenery; keeping in mind that the Social Democrats once dominated the field of Swedish foreign- and security policy. This illustrates, indeed, how the Swedish Social Democrats, just like its sister parties in Europe, has had problems in adapting to the developments since the fall of the Berlin wall. In the solid, bipolar world of the cold war, the Social Democrats easily shaped its place. In the modern, multi-polar world with its embedded dynamic and accelerated change, they seem increasingly lost.

*Text: Olof Ehrenkrona,  
Ambassador*

## Turkey in a Tough Spot – Military Officers Arrested

*In late February, a civilian Turkish prosecutor ordered the arrest of some ten senior officers, still active in the Turkish armed forces. The officers were accused of planning a coup d'états against the present AK party government. This is the first time representatives of the Turkish civilian judicial system arrest such large numbers of still active officers for planning a coup.*

In late February, a civilian Turkish prosecutor ordered the arrest of some ten senior officers, still active within the Turkish armed forces. The officers were accused of preparing a coup against the then AK-party government led by Prime Minister Abdullah Gül, today the Turkish president.

The arrest followed the publication of the plans of the coup in a Turkish newspaper, Taraf. According to a report handed over by a general staff officer to the military prosecutor working on the case – the report has been named Operation Sledghammer by its authors

– the documents must be characterized as a planned coup. Needless to say, this falls outside of the authorities of involved officers.

Quotes from the coup plan have caused mayor distress in the Turkish public debate. This is not primarily due to the fact that these scenarios are possible to realize. Rather, they indicate a mentality among the putschists which has been defined as “treachery” by active politicians and participants in the public debate. For instance, one quote contemplates pushing Turkey into a state of economic and political chaos, thereby directing the public opinion to welcome a military intervention.

“The economic actions that will be taken by friendly groups outside the Turkish armed forces, will force the country, at a national as well as an international level, into an economic crisis. This development will pave the way for more extensive public protests against the

AK-party government, protest which will need to be coordinated. In order to direct public opinion to expect the Turkish armed forces to do what is necessary, efforts will be made, including frequent news on reactionary religious activity, student protests, increased numbers of funerals for soldiers fallen in combat, on the economic crisis and on protest in the streets against unsolved crimes.”

What sets this event apart is not, keeping Turkey's unfortunate modern history in mind, that a few officers conspired and planned a coup d'états, beyond the knowledge of the General staff. Several similar plans against the AK party government, originated in 2004, have been circulating in the Turkish media for the last year. Furthermore, the extensive

trials continue against a network of individuals and organizations, accused of using provocations for instance attacks and assassination to evoke a coup d'états – the so called Ergenekon process.

Neither is it unique that coterries of officers go behind the back of the Turkish General staff, that is, the Military Command, in their attempts for a coup. The Military Command has on, at least one occasion, intervened to prevent a coup, planned by lower ranked officers.

The first military coup in the history of the Turkish republic, in May 27, 1960 where conducted by lesser ranked officers, led by the General Cemal Gürsel. The putschists at that time arrested the head of the General staff, the four stars General Rütü Erdelhun, who was sentenced to death. Eventually, he was paroled by Gürsel, who had by then ascended to be President, and had his capital punishment transformed to life in prison.

What sets the latest event apart is that this is the first time that the civilian Turkish justice system has arrested this many active officers for attempting a coups. Previously, the judicial ►



## A Moment with



**Eva Gustavsson**  
Managing Director  
JHS

The election result in Hungary clearly indicate in what direction the wind is blowing – the right one. Having suffered years of Socialist misgovernment and a broken economy the Hungarian people has finally said no. Our sister party Fidesz won the majority of the votes in the first round of the election to the Hungarian parliament. [Fidesz won the majority of the votes also in the second round on April 25.]

It is always a cause for celebration when a sister party wins an election with such a broad margin. It is also encouraging to see such a young democracy as the Hungarian work in such an exemplary way. We should not forget that 20 years ago, the Hungarians didn't have the possibility to remove a government by voting! This is the kind of development that we support, i.e. we build and secure democracy in the countries where we operate.

To reach that goal, there are a few crucial tools. One of these important tools serving democracy is the access to knowledge. In fact, in autarkies, withholding information is often used as a tool of oppression. In those countries, knowledge is for the political elite, exclusively.

Globalisation and the development of new media, including internet and mobile telephony, are crucial tools in reaching a democratic development. This is also the reason why the Hjalmarson foundation promotes freedom on the internet. In 2010, we brings this theme forward in several ways. We have launched a campaign on our webpage – accessible both in Swedish and in English.

Another part of the foundation's work to promote internet freedom is the project Santiago Digital in the Dominican Republic. Our sister party Fuenza Nacional Progresista (FNP) and their secretary general, José Ricardo Taveras, aim to teach the importance of the access to knowledge as an important component of a democratic development. Free access to internet is a core value in this project, targeting a poor population. ■

►► system has acted on both civilians linked for instance to any of the military defense authorities, or on retired officers. However, the judicial system has halted whenever a criminal investigation, with or without political consequences, have pointed at still active officers. Then, the investigation has either been turned over to a military prosecutor, or the military prosecutors have themselves chosen to intervene. The military courts have at that point, at multiple occasions, chosen either to drop the charges or to settle for symbolic disciplinary actions.

The revealed coup plans - and the plans of, by multiple means, forcing a coup, as well as the efforts by the civilian judiciary law to charge the people responsible - have abroad been interpreted as a struggle of power in general between the Turkish military and the Turkish politicians. And in particular between the majority party AKP and prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan. However, this analysis is flawed.

The previously mentioned report on "Operation Sledgehammer" could thus also conclude that the coup plans had been prepared without the knowledge of the Turkish General staff. Further, the documents, which had purposely been leaked to the Turkish media, have been gathered during a longer period of time by officers who must have had access to the coup plans, but who did not concur.

What we see is thus a struggle of power within the Turkish society between those who believe that Turkey should be run according to the principles of an open and democratic society, and those who want Turkey to continue, as has previously been done, to be a society where authoritarian and non-democratic fractions within the state may decide where the country's heading. This is a struggle of power which divides the entire Turkish society, as well in politics as within the military, the judicial system and the different actors of civil society.

It is promising for the future that the forces who want a Turkey where democratically elected governments are relieved of power in a democratic way and where civilian law rules the fundamentals of the state - such as military, the gendarmerie, the police, the intelligence and the judicial system - get stronger no matter where in society they can be found. ■

*Text: Thomas Gür*  
*Author and Senior advisor to*

Newsletter 3/2010:

## Continued Support to Belarusian Opposition

**T**he Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation has been working in Belarus - the country often named Europe's last dictatorship - for several years. Our work focuses on giving our two sister parties the knowledge and the tools they need in promoting democracy.

Since Belarus more or less lacks democratic traditions, such needs to be build up from scratch. By educating in the political craft and by linking the Belarusian activists with their counterparts in other countries, the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundations hopes to help the opposition to prepare to work in a democratic environment. The experiences from the Baltic countries show the importance of such preparation when regaining the time lost under dictatorship.

“Having a well organized and prepared opposition who are able to assume leadership is crucial. Without any experience or preparation, the possibilities to conduct successful politics once the dictatorship is removed decrease. In addition, it is important in democratizing the country. The Belarusian people need to feel hope and confidence in the opposition and believe that they are able to change the country to the better” said Christian Holm, member of the parliamentary committee on Foreign Policy and a member of the Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation board. Together with Evelina Lorentzon, senior project manager at the foundation, he has visited Belarus on several occasions, the latest being in March.

“When speaking to representatives of our Belarusian sister parties, they emphasize the importance of our support. Many party members, especially the younger ones, feel that their efforts are useless. This feeling is further enhanced by the problems of deciding on a single opposition candidate for next year's presidential election” Evelina Lorentzon tells.

“It is valuable to them to feel that they are not alone, but have friends outside the country. They are also happy that we visit the country and the regions”.

In Belarus, the Foundation works both with party management and with youth.



*Lenins stand statue in front of the parliament in Minsk, Belarus.*

*Photo: Christian Holm*

According to an internal report, you can see “ a significant improvement in knowledge among the young people with whom we have been working. The political discussion of today is on a completely different level, as is much of the campaign work.” Nowadays, Belarusian use for example door-to-door canvases and different types of web campaigning. A few years ago, this was not the case.

A major problem for the Belarusian opposition has been that they have been too abstract in their vision for Belarus. Democracy in itself has not been specific enough to encourage people in general.

“Lately, we can see both youth organizations but also the mother parties become more specific in their campaign. While freedom and democracy remain core values, more narrow issues have been pushed too. Some examples are the call for an alternative military service and decreased import taxes on non-Russian cars” Evelina Lorentzon describes while adding that many of the young people who have previously taken part in educations run by the foundation has

now reach a level where they may participate as speakers.

An important part of the Foundation's work is to discuss cooperation and alliances. Cross party cooperation is important, not just in achieving a democratization. It is also the basis of political work within democratic systems.

"It is important that all democratic forces work in common to achieve a democratic development. As for example in finding a single democratic candidate in the presidential election, for instance. A fragmented opposition supporting several countries, would make it more difficult to mobilize and the possibility for one candidate to gather a broad support. This would only benefit the current president" Christian Holm argues.

A result of the Foundation's work in Belarus is that the two oppositional parties co-operates more. There are good relations between party management and also locally

the organizations often co-operate, despite operating within different political coalitions.

*How do the Foundation promote women in the Belarusian sister parties?*

"Although the share of women in the youth organizations seem to be more or less the same as when we started, these women representatives has completely different possibilities today", Christian Holm explains.

Today, there are several female chairmen and many of the women with whom the foundation has been working, has started to raise within their parties. One of the foundation's targets is to increase the share of active women and help our sister parties to launch good female candidates in the local elections of 2014. ■

## Newsletter 1/2010: Visa Liberalization in the Balkans A Success for Europe

After almost two decades of isolation, it is great news that citizens of Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia are able to travel without a visa to the Schengen zone, starting December 19, 2009, writes Gerald Knaus, founder and chairman of the European Stability Initiative (ESI).

A Serbian airline promptly offered promotional flights to Schengen countries under the slogan "Europe for all of us", told Knaus and added "This is a much needed success for Europeanisers across the region".

The visa liberalization process has been an excellent example of EU soft power at work. There were very clear conditions, a rigorous process with milestones and deadlines, and a reachable, juicy carrot at the end. It created some very healthy competition among the five participating countries. When Albania and Bosnia



realized last summer that they were lagging behind their neighbors, they redoubled their efforts. There are lessons here that can be used for the wider Balkan enlargement process. Treating all countries alike in a single process, but rewarding them for their objective performance in a strict, but fair fashion, is the best way to foster national efforts to meet the demanding accession criteria. Transparent, merit-based competition works wonders, even in the Balkans. This is the kind of Balkan rivalry that citizens of the region – and across Europe - can benefit from. In fact, there cannot be enough of it.

# Freedom on the Internet is Part of Human Rights

**S**weden was one of the first countries that put internet freedom on the international agenda. "We have made this issue an important part in promoting human right," says Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt. It's a promise, he claims that "we will remain a driving force in jointly promoting freedom and security on the internet."

The Jarl Hjalmarson Foundation has recently launched a campaign emphasizing the importance of freedom on the internet. On the web page [www.hjalmarsonfoundation.se/freedom](http://www.hjalmarsonfoundation.se/freedom) texts regarding freedom, as well as lack of freedom, can be found. On his blogg Carl Bildt describes the campaign as "a excellent initiative".

According to Reporters without borders, more than 100 bloggers and netizens are currently imprisoned for publishing their ideas on the internet. The list of Internet enemies include countries such as Saudi-Arabia, Burma, China, North Korea, Cuba, Egypt, Iran, Uzbekistan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkmenistan and Vietnam. In most of these countries, it is currently considered a crime to voice opinions on the web and the hunt for dissents continues to grow.

Reporters without borders states that in 2009 - compared to the year before - the number of arrested bloggers and netizens increased with 155 percent (151 vs. 59 individuals). This is a remarkable increase. During the same period the number of assaulted bloggers and cyber dissidents grew with 35 percent (from 45 to 61 individuals). At the same time the number of countries using internet censorship increased from 37 to 60 states.

The importance of Internet as a tool to further freedom is reflected in a European Parliament resolution published a few years ago. "The Internet has become the means of expression for political dissidents, human rights defenders and independent journalists worldwide". In fact, few of us could imagine common day life without internet access.

Henrik von Sydow, MP and Moderaterna's spokes person on new media, said in an interview on the home page of the Foundation:

"There is a rise in blocking and censoring of the internet. At the moment, this is most visible in Iran. In connection with the protests of last summer five million web pages were



blocked. In China, Facebook, Skype and several search engines are blocked. The Chinese people are unable to freely browse for information or to voice their opinions. In addition, this means that foreign companies are unable to, through ads, promote their products to millions of Chinese."

But, Henrik von Sydow continues, blocking of the internet increases dramatically also in Northern Africa and in the Middle East. Also Europe has joined the club. For instance, Turkey has blocked YouTube.

There is a specific pattern defining a totalitarian regime: As a first step, internet access is denied the general public. Only those with connections to the ruling party are allowed to surf the web. As a second step, the internet is blocked and censored. Finally these regimes fill the web with their own information. They issue propaganda, monitor and strike against dissidents on the web.

**Please visit [www.hjalmarsonfoundation.se/freedom](http://www.hjalmarsonfoundation.se/freedom).**



Photo: Pawel Flato

Newsletter 4/2010:

## “Sweden must export e-democracy!”

*By facilitating technology Sweden has the ability to promote the expansion of freedom for individuals and countries all over the world. Technology is a tool for changing the society, writes Anna Kinberg Batra, in charge of a Moderate task force searching for ways to ensure global freedom and respect for human rights.*

Chairing a Moderate task force, I’ve searched for ways to spread human rights. Using the technology of today, it has never before been easier to empower individuals – even for those born in a non-free country.

Already twenty years ago, at the fall of the Berlin Wall and the freeing of the people in Easter Europe, free media played a crucial part. Regimes would try to uphold oppression but they couldn’t silence Radio Free Europe or the CNN. Technology became a tool for changing the society.

This was before the advent of Internet. Today, the supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi, may film and spread information from their meeting – no matter the views of the Burmese Junta. People protesting the election result in Iran, in 2009, came forward on Youtube through mobile cameras – not just as angry protesters but also as the victims of executions. The images echoed in the world. Today, cell phones have become a factor of power.

The freedom for each and everyone to access information is one of the pillars in a functioning democracy. Internet access increases all over the world. Though, the possibilities for undemocratic states to monitor the citizens increase correspondingly. The abuse of new technology constitutes a core threat against freedom and human integrity. The Chinese refer to “the Great Firewall”, an extensive digital filter introduced by the Chinese government to censor and complicate Internet usage. Also in Iran and in Cuba, the regimes have realized that the balance on the web affects the balance

of Society.

A Swedish government aiming to secure human rights and freedom must secure four basic steps:

- *Exporting e-democracy.* Several Swedish companies develop solutions which make e-voting a reality. The knowledge and the experience gained by activities such as the 24/7 Governmental Authorities and the Swedish E-bureaucracy may help in making e-voting reality, at home as well as abroad. A secure technology improves election turn outs and involvement.
- *Educate in human rights.* Use the Swedish and EU-coordinated aid for democracy development. Raoul Wallenberg professors for Human Rights should be funded at universities abroad.
- *Give democratic forces abroad the possibilities to communicate with the rest of the world through the Swedish Embassies.* In countries where contacts with the surrounding world are scarce, diplomats may pass on messages as well as facilitate communication between democratic activists and external supporters through providing access to the Embassy’s channel of communication and Internet. In Cuba, among others, this possibility exists in several European Embassies. Sweden should join that group.
- *The principles above should be guiding also to an EU foreign office.* An EU representation should promote democracy and human rights – also in reality. At the office, those working for democracy and human rights should be able to get both protection and hands-on help.

Text: Anna Kinberg Batra,  
Member of Parliament and chairpersoner of  
the Committee on European Union Affairs in  
Parliament

## Moldova: Democracy Still Stands against Communism

*In the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, Moldova gained independence in August 1991. However, in December the same year, Transnistria, a part of Moldova which lies east of the river Nistru/Dnjestr, declared its independence, thereby causing the outbreak of a minor civil war. At the outbreak, Russia sent its 14<sup>th</sup> army to Transnistria and forced a cease-fire. In essence the cease-fire has turned into a deadlock, a divided country and a "frozen" conflict.*

Historically, Moldova has both been an independent principality and belonged to other states. The country has been part of Romania and later of Bessarabia, then Romania again and finally, the country turned into a Soviet Republic. The divided country has had a much divided historical development. Transnistria, which is still run by Communist president Igor Smimov, who has been elected three times, is tormented by a weak economic development and has in periods been isolated. In the rest of Moldova, the economic development has been more significant and they have chosen a path of Democracy and openness. For instance,



*In Moldavia the Communist leader Lenin still stands.*

there have been periodical elections with non-violent changes of government. These elections have been judged by international observers as "partly satisfactory".

Soon after independence, there was a massive public support for a reunion with Romania. The Moldovans could see how Romania moved closer to the EU and that this affected its development positively. However, in the referendum on reunion, held in 1994, the support was only a mere 10 percent. In the following years, Moldova tried to independently get closer to the EU and they managed to sign several decrees and treaties. However, last year, the domestic political situation turned significantly more complicated. In the Parliamentary Election of 2009, the Communist party won. This caused civil unrest and in a new election, held in June, the Communist received only a minority. In the next few months, there were ongoing negotiations between the parties and in August, four parties agreed on governing together as an "Alliance for European Integration". The name in itself marks the major political direction. Unfortunately, the co-operation between the parties work relatively bad and the parties do not have any common ideological ground. Marian Lupu, the party leader for the Democratic Party was, until July, the Communist speaker of the Moldovan Parliament, though to him, the turning to Europe is more important all other issues.

There are other complicated issues as well. With the present constitution and the Parliamentary situation of today, it is important to appoint a new president. For this, 61 votes are needed but the Alliance only controls 53 of the 101 MP's. Therefore, a constitutional crisis is imminent. Until further notice, the chairman of the parliament acts as the head of State, though he has no interest in finding a rapid solution to the problem. There are ongoing negotiations among the Alliance parties on constitutional changes. Either, the constitutional statues on the Election of the President has to be altered or the entire constitution. In the midst of the constitutional crisis, Moldova was declared one of the countries in the Eastern Partnership. The Eastern Partnership is a Swedish-Polish initiative within the EU, which includes six countries; Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. Through this partnership, EU confirms that these countries have membership prospects. An important part of the cooperation is easing up the visa regula-

tion to facilitate exchange and cooperation. This demonstrates EU's ability to create peace and a prosperous development through "Soft Power". There has been a great interest in a closer relationship and the six countries are aware of the development potential in stronger EU relations.

EU is not the only actor. OSCE (The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) is striving to find solutions to the frozen conflicts in Nagorno Karabakh and Transnistria as well as in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. OSCE also has a mission in the Moldovan capital Chisnau and, nowadays, also in the Transnistrian capital of Tiraspol. Russia holds a firm grip of the state through the 14'th army which has yet to leave the country after 1991. Russia's power is also based on Transnistria's energy dependence. The country receives its entire energy supply by Russia. In exchange for "free" gas, Russia gains political loyalty.

Today, there are ongoing negotiations between the US, Russia, OSCE, Ukraine, EU, Moldova and Transnistria. At the moment, these are at a deadlock. Together with my col-

leagues in OSCE, I am, myself, about to go to Chisnau and Tiraspol to see what progress have been made. Together, we will strive to build bridges between the two parts of the country. This autumn, we in OSCE plan to organize a joint conference with Parliamentarians from Moldova and Transnistria. Such a conference could not be arranged, neither by Chisnau nor Tiraspol, as such an act would mean recognizing "the other" country. Here, OSCE has an important role in creating a place to meet.

Moldova is a country facing great problems but also great possibilities. The next few years will be decisive in solving the frozen conflict, thereby giving room to stability and economic, social and political development. That would indeed be a needed.

*Text: Walburga Habsburg Douglas,  
MP (M), member of the Jarl Hjalmarson  
Foundation board, Chairman of the EPP  
Parliamentarian OSCE delegation & the  
corresponding in Swedish Parliament*

## Newsletter 5/2010:

### Intense Educational Program in the Balkan Region

The Foundation's projects in the Balkan region have progressed rapidly. During spring of 2010, the Foundation has arranged several educational activities, among them study trips to Brussels.

At the beginning of February the Foundation hosted a visit to Brussels for female politicians from the PDP in Bosnia. March 16-19, it was once again time for another study visit. This time, the participants were young politicians from DSS in Serbia. The third and last study visit to Brussels involved youth from Croatian HDZ. The Croatians were part of the Foundation's educational program on the EU.

In addition to study visits, the Foundation has arranged conferences for G17Plus in Serbia and SDA in Bosnia. Both conferences covered similar themes and aimed at broadening the participants' knowledge on EU and political branding. These two topics have been forged together to inspire the participants to use a positive EU message as a tool to strengthen the party brand.

Finally, in June the Foundation arranged a fifth and concluding seminar for a group of female politicians of PDP, Bosnia. The focal point for these classes was to conclude what the participants had learnt during previous parts of the education, as well as to focus on the upcoming election campaign. The Bosnian election is held on October 3, 2010.

