



## An introduction to AEGEE-International Politics Working Group (IPWG)

### Who we are

We are a **group** of members of AEGEE interested in international affairs, politics and diplomacy.

We provide a **forum** for students interested in international politics and offer them with the opportunity to get in contact with other students from all over Europe sharing this interest.

We are a **network** existing to facilitate the co-ordination of local efforts on this field throughout Europe.

We enable **information exchange** in order to create benefit for our members and to foster successful AEGEE activities. Providing and handing on all kinds of ideas, support, expertise, links, and relations will be our means to reach this goal.

### What we did in the past

Since its foundation in 1997, IPWG has become a strong pillar of AEGEE activities by giving thematic input to different conferences and seminars as well as by organizing conferences on its own, e.g. various activities in and dealing with the Balkan region. It played an important role in the realisation of AEGEE's projects such as "Peace Academy" and "Ten Years of Transition" after the end of the Cold War.

Throughout 2001, IPWG got actively involved in the AEGEE yearplan project "Quo Vadis Europe?", dealing with the future of Europe. IPWG organised the "Summit of 28", a simulation game about decision-making in an enlarged European Union, taking place in the European Parliament in Brussels.

In 2002, a conference on "Europe's role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" gave life to the independent project "Palestinians – Israelis – Europeans".

Among the major events of 2003 were IPWG's "Diplomatic Seminar" in Bucuresti, the conference "E[YOU]rope – let's get closer" in Osnabrück and the seminar "Europe's (Torn ?) Identity" in Ljubljana. "IPWG goes Den Haag", including a visit to the major international institutions, has been organised three times already.

In 2004, IPWG implemented the yearplan project "EU & Europe – Europe's identity", and supported the EuroIslam Project.



***IPWG - Striving Perspective***

In 2005 main activities of AEGEE where the support of the project “Tolerance – Acceptance – Peace”, and initiated together with IRISH – an Albanian NGO – the first Election Observation Mission of AEGEE to Albania.

In 2006 IPWG did organize another edition of the Diplomatic Seminar and supported the TakeControl flagship project.

In 2007 International Politics Working Group was celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the publication “AEGEE and International Politics” presenting the past activities is planned to be publish in 2008. In Zielona Góra, Poland was organized the Mediation Training “Striving for Diversity – Fighting Intolerance” within the frame of All Different All Equal campaign launched by Council of Europe. The 4<sup>th</sup> Diplomatic Seminar took place in Ankara and during whole year discussions on the future of European Citizenship were conducted.

### **What we plan for 2008**

The next plans for IPWG focus on encouraging youngsters to be active citizens and to use voting rights by discussions and trainings on European Citizenship. Moreover, the 5<sup>th</sup> Diplomatic Seminar, another Trip to The Hague, a Meditation Training are on the agenda for 2008.

Apart from all these activities, the basic tool we have to remain active are the mailing lists which become a platform for all the members as they provide the forum for debating upon actual topics and exchange different views and ideas. In light to this, we want to keep promoting our main discussion list IPWG-L as well as our sub-lists for our project teams and our active members. In addition, we are organizing workshops at the statutory meetings of AEGEE.

Last but not least, we are encouraging all AEGEE-members to set up local working groups in their local and to discuss international politics on a regular basis as well as comparing the outcomes with the discussions in other local groups

### **How to find out more**

If you are interested to get to know more about IPWG, please go to [www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg](http://www.aegee.org/wg/ipwg) or contact [ipwg@aegee.org](mailto:ipwg@aegee.org) for further information.