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Master excursions

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Master excursions

by Vanesa Berisha and Janna Cheretis

B.I.L. & SPIL Master trip

On Monday 11th April we left for Strasbourg with a bus filled with 36 Master students of both Public Administration and Political studies. After an eight-hour trip we arrived at our hotel. The narrow streets on location turned out to be very tricky for our bus driver to manage; however, with a little less pavement left in Strasbourg, he managed to park us in front of the hotel. As soon as we arrived we had to change into our suits quickly and get ready for our first excursion: a meeting with Professor Jacque from Robert Schuman University. Professor Jacque is specialized in European Studies en has lectured at a range of universities including Barcelona, Madrid and Santiago in Chili. He provided us with a lecture on several topics such as the European Convention on Human Rights and accession to the European Union.

After the meeting we enjoyed some free time. We walked the city and many of us discovered the street cafes where we enjoyed the lovely weather over drinks and dinner. At ten o' clock we met at the hotel for a night out on the town, where, unfortunately, it turned out that B.I.L. was very well represented whereas most SPIL members had hit the hay.



Following a -for some short- night's sleep the trip was continued and we visited the European Court of Human Rights. We were able to attend a hearing in the Gas and Dubois versus France case live. After lunch we went to the Council of European where we met Mr ten Broeke and Mrs Bemelmans-Videc, both members of the parliamentary assembly, who told us about their respective roles in and influence upon the assembly. We then got the opportunity to witness part of an assembly meeting. After this interesting debate we unfortunately had to get back to Leiden. We can look back on a very successful trip where we learned even more about European institutions.

Master excursion ICTY

Mr Mladic is safely locked up in Scheveningen at the moment, however on Thursday 21st March this was not the case yet. That day we visited the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) with a group of B.I.L. members. Upon arrival we first attended a hearing which brought reality closer to us and made us much aware of the cruelties that had been afflicted upon the civilian population. Afterwards we met with a prosecutor who told us more about the tribunal. It also came up that the tribunal would close as soon as all current hearings were over, which was predicted for 2014, and that the one person they still pursued was Mr Mladic. It was then explained to us what methods the tribunal uses to get hold of criminals. Now that Mr Mladic has been turned in, the closing date will most probably be postponed. All in all it was a very interesting excursion, especially in the light of current events.

