



Mission Permanente du Royaume du Maroc auprès de l'Office des Nations-Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

International Research Seminar

“AUTONOMY STATUTES AND REGIONALIZATION: SOLIDARITY AND EQUALIZATION BETWEEN REGIONS”

Palais des Nations (Room VIII), Geneva, 1st July 2013, from 12.30 to 15.00

Background

On **11 April 2007**, the Kingdom of Morocco tabled with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a document entitled “Moroccan Initiative for Negotiating an Autonomy Status for the Region of Sahara” meant to put an end to the current impasse on the negotiations regarding the status of Western Sahara.¹ In order to promote discussion on some aspects of this proposal, Morocco initiated, among others, four international academic seminars:

- One on **6 October 2009** in Geneva (Switzerland) at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), which published a synthesis of that event in its *Geneva Paper No. 12*²;
- The other on **21-22 February 2011** in Dakhla (Morocco), on the Human Rights and Democracy dimensions of the Moroccan Initiative, whose results were presented to a roundtable on 17 March 2011 in the margins of a meeting of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and were published by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- A third one on **22 March 2012** in Geneva on “Governance in Autonomy Statutes: Institutions and Mechanisms”;
- A fourth one on **4 June 2012** in Geneva on “Managing Natural Resources in Autonomy Statutes”. Morocco has published the proceedings of the 2012 seminars.

Morocco organises a new international research seminar on **1st July 2013** on “Autonomy Statutes and Regionalization: Solidarity and Equalization between Regions”.

This event, like the previous ones, aims at promoting the importance of the Moroccan Initiative as an unprecedented model for managing autonomy in the context of North Africa but also likely to serve as reference in other countries of the Global South. This seminar will indeed offer an opportunity to *compare practices in some countries aiming to ensure an equitable distribution of resources and revenue between the central government and the autonomous region(s) with the provisions proposed by Morocco for the Sahara Region*. It is however important to note that the international negotiations on the status of Western Sahara are being conducted within the framework of the United Nations and that this seminar does not intend to appear as a substitute of such negotiations.

Simultaneous interpretation and translation of all documents and papers in English and French will be ensured. The proceedings of the seminar will be published by Morocco.

¹ See: United Nations, Document S/2007/206 of 13 April 2007 (available at: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/MINURSO%20S2007206.pdf>).

² “Can Autonomy Fulfil the Right to Self-Determination?”, *Geneva Paper No. 12*, 2010 (<http://www.gcsp.ch/Resources-Publications/Publications/GCSP-Publications/Geneva-Papers/Conference-Series/Can-Autonomy-Fulfil-the-Right-to-Self-Determination>).



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Programme

1st July 2013

- 12.30 – 13.00 Traditional Moroccan Buffet Lunch
- 13.00 – 13.20 Introduction by the Chairman of the Seminar: Dr **Gyula Csurgai**, Academic Director, School of International Training, Geneva: *"An Overview of the Main Aspects of the Moroccan Initiative of Autonomy for the Sahara Region Related to the Distribution of Resources on the basis of National Solidarity"*
- Presentations on the national solidarity or equalization mechanisms in various regional autonomy statutes and comparison with the Moroccan Initiative:
- 13.20 – 13.40 France: Professor **Michel Bouvier**, Professor of Public Finance at Paris I University: *"Local Tax Equalization in France: Realities and Implications in a Context of Economic Crisis"*
- 13.40 – 14.00 Spain / Catalogna: Dr **José María Durán Cabré**, Professor of Public Finance, Barcelona University: *"Tax Equalization between Spanish Regions"*
- 14.00 – 14.20 Europe: Ms **Marie-Madeleine Mialot**, Representative of the Chamber of Regions, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, Council of Europe: *"Regionalisation and Solidarity: Principles and Recommendations of the Council of Europe Congress"*
- 14.20 – 14.40 Canada: Professor **Jean-Louis Roy**, Guest Researcher, Public Law Research Centre (CRDP), University of Montreal : *"Autonomy Status and Regionalization; Solidarity and Equalization between Regions: Policy and Practice in the Canadian Federation"*
- 14.40 – 15.00 Conclusions : Dr **Gyula Csurgai**

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BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Michel BOUVIER

Professor Michel Bouvier is Director of the Master programme on Law and Public Finance at the Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, and runs the Public Management module at the National Heritage Institute. He also teaches within the Preparatory Cycle for recruitment into the National Government School (ENA) and is a member of ENA's juries. He is the founder and Director of the *Revue française de finances publiques* journal as well as the European Group on Public Finance Research (GERFIP), and Founder-President of the Association for the International Foundation on Public Finance (FONDAFIP). He directs several collections of publications, is a member of various organisations (Observatory of Local Finance of the Committee of Local Finance, Experts Committee of the Delegation on Local Government and Decentralization of the French Senate, Advisory and Orientation Committee of the Council for Standardization of Public Accounting, Council on Taxation and Contributions, Overseas Territories of the French Agency for Development, Observatory of Public Spending, Board of the French Society for Public Finance, Editorial Council of *Revista internacional de Direito Tributario* –Brasil–, Editorial Board of *Revista de Finanças publicas e direito fiscal* –Portugal– and *European Tax Studies*). He authored many publications, including “Local Financial Autonomy: A Tested Concept for the 21st Century”, in *Revue Française de Finances Publiques* (May 2011) and “Decentralization, Financial Autonomy and Taxation Powers in Local Government”, *FEACT* (April 2009).

Gyula CSURGAI

Born in Budapest, Dr Gyula Csurgai holds Swiss and Canadian citizenships. He holds University degrees in Political Science from Concordia University, Canada and the University of Toulouse, France. He obtained two Master degrees from the University of Geneva and a Diploma in French Language and Civilization. He obtained his doctorate degree from the University of Geneva, completing his thesis in the field of geopolitics. He worked as a Fellow at the Geneva International Peace Research Institute (GIPRI), and has taught International Relations, Geopolitics and Geoeconomics in both undergraduate, master and doctorate programmes at different universities. He also organized seven international symposiums and directed the publications of their proceedings. He participated in several international research projects and provided expertise to a number of international organisations. He is co-founder and Director of the International Centre for Geopolitical Studies and Academic Director of the International Studies programme of (School of International Training (SIT) University in Geneva. His publications include: “Geoeconomics and Competitive Intelligence and their Influences on Power Rivalries and State Security”, National Defence University of Romania, 2013; “Le rôle de l'Asie dans la réorientation stratégique actuelle des Etats-Unis : quelques considérations géopolitiques”, *Revue Militaire Suisse*, Jul. 2012; “Geopolitical and Geo-Economic Analysis of the S.W.F. Issue: Sovereign Wealth Funds and Power Rivalries”, LAP, Germany, 2011; “Geopolitics, Economic Warfare and Access to Natural Resources” in *Access to Resources and the International Community*, A. Vautravers (ed.), Webster University, Geneva, 2011; “Identity Conflicts, Nationalism and Geopolitics in Central and South-East Europe” in *Webster Security Forum*, Webster University, Geneva, 2010; “Geo-Economic Rivalries of States” in Nigel Young (ed.), *The Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace*, Oxford, 2010; “L'analyse géopolitique : une approche interdisciplinaire pour déchiffrer la complexité des relations internationales”, *Revue Militaire Suisse*, Jul. 2009; “Geopolitics, Geo-economics and Competitive Intelligence in Power Projection Strategies of the State in the 21st Century”, Fundação Alexandre de Gusmão, Brasilia, 2008; “The Use of Geopolitical Approach in Analyzing Contemporary Conflicts”, in *Globalization of Security Trends and Perspectives*, (ed. Alexandre Vautravers), Webster University, Geneva, 2008; “L'idée républicaine en Europe centrale” in *L'idée républicaine dans le monde* (ed. Emmanuel Dupuy & Paul Baquiast), Harmattan, Paris 2007; “Composantes et caractéristiques de la stratégie de désinformation”, *Revue Militaire Suisse*, Lausanne, March-April 2007; “Quelques considérations sur les facteurs géopolitiques de la Suisse”, *Revue Militaire Suisse*, Lausanne, 2006; “Les zones grises des Balkans” in *Les zones grises dans*



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le monde d'aujourd'hui (ed. Pierre Pascallon), L'Harmattan, Paris, 2006; "La nation et ses territoires en Europe centrale : une approche géopolitique", Peter Lang, Bern, 2005; "Geopolitical Aspects of the Minority Question in Central and South Eastern Europe" in *Concepts of Minority Governance in Europe on the Threshold of the 21st Century*, LGI Books/Central European University Press, 2002, Budapest.

José María DURÁN-CABRÉ

Dr José María Durán-Cabré is Associate professor at the Department of Public Finance, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Barcelona since 2007, a Research member (since 2000) and Chief executive officer (since 2006) of the Barcelona Institute of Economics; he has been External advisor to the Government of Andorra in 2009-2010. From the University of Barcelona (UB), he received his PhD in Economics in 2002, his BA in Law in 1997, his BA in Economics in 1994 and his MSc in Fiscal Studies from the University of Bath (UK) in 1998. He teaches Public Finance and Spanish Tax System at the University of Barcelona (since 1995) and Economics of Taxation at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) since 2008. His research experience includes projects on: Fiscal Federalism and Regional Economy; Tax assignment and fiscal decentralization; Tax reform in Andorra; the Spanish experience in the administration of the personal income tax: tax data sendings and pre-filled tax returns; Financing the new competences of local governments; Evaluation of the effects of decentralization on the efficiency in the provision of public services and democratic government accountability; Fiscal Federalism and Regional Economy; Fiscal Federalism and Regional Economy; The financing system of autonomous communities: a proposal for a system of equalization grants. His publications include: "Prefilled Personal Income Tax Returns in Spain", in *Prefilled Personal Income Tax Returns. A Comparative Analysis of Australia, Belgium, California, Québec, and Spain*, F. Vaillancourt (ed.), Fraser Institute (2010); *Fiscal Federalism and Political Decentralization: Lessons from Spain, Germany and Canada* (ed.), Edward Elgar (2008); "The financing system of Spanish regions: main features, weak points and possible reforms" in *Fiscal Federalism and Political Decentralization: Lessons from Spain, Germany and Canada*, N. Bosch and J.M. Durán (eds.), Edward Elgar (2008).

Marie-Madeleine MIALOT

Ms Marie-Madeleine Mialot-Muller is a French local government elected representative, currently Vice-President of the Regional Council of the Centre Région (headquartered in Orléans), where she is in charge mainly of urban planning, de economy and agriculture. She also fulfils the functions of Representative of the Chamber of Regions and First Full Member of the Governance Commission of the Council of Europe, where she is a member of the Socialist Faction. She is also Rapporteur on Decentralisation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, which is a pan-European political assembly composed of 636 members – regional and local councilors, presidents of regional councils – representing more than 200,000 local councils from 47 European countries. As such she took part, among others, in international missions, for instance on monitoring local elections in Armenia or discussion of decentralisation by the Tunisian Constitutional Assembly.

Jean-Louis ROY

Jean-Louis Roy is visiting researcher at the Research Centre in Public Law of the University of Montréal (CRDP) and a member of the Board of the Centre for International Studies and Research (CERIUM). One of the main architects of the institutions of international Francophonie, Mr Roy was, from 1990 to 1998 the Secretary General of the Agency of Francophonie, uniting 49 States and governments. In the 1980s, he was the Director of the Montreal daily newspaper *Le Devoir*, and then Delegate-General of the government of Quebec in Paris. From 2002 to 2008, Mr Roy was the chairman of *Droits et Démocratie* (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development). As a historian, he authored in particular *L'Europe au XXI^e*, *La Francophonie : Le Projet communautaire* and *Une Nouvelle Afrique à l'aube du XXI^e siècle*.