



CEJI Flash

Issue 2 – March 2007

Welcome to the CEJI e-newsletter!

CEJI WEBSITE RE-LAUNCH!

The CEJI website, which remains at www.ceji.org, has been re-designed to be more user-friendly and relevant to our work. It brings together information from the previous site and www.acodden.org, features full details of all of our projects and is now easily updatable. We hope the site will be a useful resource for our partners, friends and anyone else interested in finding out about how CEJI works, what we do and how to get involved.

New site features include:

- A newsletter archive and easy subscribe/unsubscribe page (www.ceji.org/newsletter/index.php)
- A comprehensive and up-to-date list of events (www.ceji.org/events/index.php)
- A press archive featuring all of our press releases, contributions to consultations, press appearances, letters and articles (www.ceji.org/press/index.php)
- Information on how to work for CEJI, including a list of vacancies and our internship programmes (www.ceji.org/aboutus/jobopportunities.php)
- Information for potential donors (www.ceji.org/aboutus/supportus.php)

Our Communications Officer Katy Nicholson would be very interested to hear your thoughts on the new site, and would welcome any suggestions.

Please e-mail communication@ceji.org.



RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY & ANTI-DISCRIMINATION TRAINING – OPEN SESSIONS

CEJI will be holding two 2-day **religious diversity and anti-discrimination workshops** on 23-24 April (French language) and 4-5 June (English language). Open to people of all faiths, beliefs and senses of religious and non-religious belonging, these workshops aim to address diversity and discrimination issues related to religion using highly interactive and participatory methods that have proven effective in dealing with general prejudice and discrimination.

The workshops are open to all and cost 80€, which includes lunch on both days. To register contact training@ceji.org by 30 March.

For further details about the Religious Diversity training module go to www.ceji.org/education/subject.php.

ADVOCACY UPDATE

In the context of both CEJI's new **advocacy objectives** (which can be found at www.ceji.org/advocacy/index.php) and a number of worrying recent developments, we have been particularly active in the advocacy field since our previous update!

CEJI Calls on European Parliament to Condemn Racist & Antisemitic MEP

In mid-February Polish independent MEP Maciej Giertych published a booklet, '**Civilisations at War in Europe**' bearing a prominent European Parliament logo, in which he revived age-old racial and religious stereotypes. CEJI immediately responded with a letter to the President of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering, asking for measures condemning Mr Giertych and his ideas. Mr Giertych was subsequently formally reprimanded by the President for 'violating the fundamental values of the European Union.'



CEJI Calls for Sales Stop on Protocols of Zion

Just over a week afterwards, CEJI was shocked to discover that a novel including a reprint of the entire text of the antisemitic 19th century forgery '**The Protocols of the Elders of Zion**' had appeared in Belgian bookshops. Following protests by CEJI and other Jewish groups the novel was withdrawn from sale by the shop's owners and also by the European Parliament, where it had been available for purchase in the Parliament shop.

CEJI press releases and media appearances related to both of these issues can be found at www.ceji.org/press/index.php.

Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia

On a more positive note, the German EU Presidency has made it one of their key priorities to pass a **Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia**. This instrument would give impetus to the fight against racism in the Member States of the EU.

CEJI is interested in the approval of the document by the Council of the European Union, but is hesitant about its content as it stands today, as it is unclear whether it would truly force Member States to strengthen their laws in the combat against racism. We are currently lobbying for a strengthened version of the Framework Decision.

For more details about CEJI's Advocacy work visit www.ceji.org/advocacy/index.php or contact Policy Officer Gidon van Emden at gidon.vanemden@ceji.org.

SHIURIM

Held on Wednesday 7 February, our first Shiur of 2007 dealt with the proposed Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia. Our second Shiur of the year, held on Wednesday 7 March, was led by Professor Joel Kotek of the Université Libre de Bruxelles and was entitled 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion: A Historic Overview and Their Presence in Belgium Today'.

The next Shiur will take place on **Thursday 12 April**. Johannes Houwink ten Cate, Director of the Centre for Holocaust and



Genocide Studies, and Professor at the University of Amsterdam will discuss 20th-century genocides and give his vision on the Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia.

For more details about CEJI's Shiurim visit www.ceji.org/jewishparticipation/shiurim.php.

To sign up for the e-mail list contact Policy Officer Gidon van Emden at gidon.vanemden@ceji.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- European Adult Education Course on Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination | Date: 18 – 23 March | Location: Sofia, Bulgaria
- 'Fruitcakes' Gender-Based Discrimination and Homophobia Peer Training Programme: Pilot Training Session | Date: 18 – 24 March | Location: Budapest, Hungary
- Interfaith Women's Seder | Date: 25 March | Location: Brussels
- *Shiur* Lunchtime Debate – Genocides in the 20th Century in the Light of the EU's Framework Decision | Date: 12 April | Location: Brussels
- European Conference on Jewish-Muslim Dialogue | Date: 15 – 17 April | Location: Brussels
- Refresher Training for Trainers of A CLASSROOM OF DIFFERENCE™ | Date: 20 – 22 April | Location: Germany
- Religious Diversity & Anti-Discrimination Training (French language) | Date: 23 – 24 April (French language), 4 – 5 June (English language) | Location: Brussels

Visit www.ceji.org/events.php for further details.



STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome intern **Hannah Mills** to our team! Hannah is a junior at American University in Washington, DC, studying International Relations. She is in Brussels for the spring semester of 2007 to study the European Union. As an intern at CEJI, she is helping with the antisemitism and islamophobia modules.

PARTNERS' NEWS / EVENTS

'Jewish Education in a Multicultural World'

Fourth Conference for European Jewish Educators, organised by the European Council of Jewish Communities and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Location: Frankfurt | Date: 18 – 21 March 2007

For further details visit www.arachim.ecjc.org/

SUBSCRIBE / UNSUBSCRIBE & NEWSLETTER ARCHIVES

Visit www.ceji.org/newsletter.php to subscribe or unsubscribe to *CEJI Flash* and to access previous issues.

An international not-for-profit organisation established in 1991, CEJI stands with individuals and organisations of all religions, cultures and backgrounds to promote a diverse and inclusive Europe. CEJI works to combat prejudice and discrimination and to promote social cohesion through training, education, dialogue and advocacy.