



CONTACTFORUM

Subsidiarity and Multilevel Governance

Wednesday 12 October 2011

VENUE

Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts
Paleis der Academieën (Academy Palace)
Hertogsstraat 1 - 1000 Brussels

ORGANIZATION

This contactforum on subsidiarity and multilevel governance is organized by the Flemish Research Centre on International Policy (Steunpunt Buitenlands Beleid) and has received logistical and financial support from the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (KVAB) and from the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO).

THEME AND OBJECTIVE

The contactforum's general theme is the link between subsidiarity and multilevel governance. Subsidiarity is a complex, ambivalent and fluid concept. Depending on the policy issue, context or relationship between policy levels, it is applied differently. The goal of the contactforum is therefore to conceptually explore the concept and policy principle of subsidiarity in a multilevel governance context from a number of disciplinary perspectives.

In the morning sessions, a theoretical, conceptual and legal exploration of the concept as a principle in the organization of the increasingly multilevel governance character of policy is provided. The afternoon parallel sessions focus on the application of subsidiarity in a number of selected policy domains:

1. the application of subsidiarity between the regional (Flanders), national (Belgium) and European (EU) policy level;
2. subsidiarity and development cooperation;
3. subsidiarity and cultural diversity; and
4. subsidiarity and trade policy.

The discussion of these topics allows for the identification and analysis of both the added value and bottlenecks of subsidiarity in policy issues dealt with in a multilevel governance context. Finally, in the concluding part, the common threads identified during the contactforum will be identified and discussed.

The contactforum will bring together leading researchers from a variety of disciplines that are confronted with subsidiarity questions, as well as policy experts and practitioners. This not only allows for a productive debate regarding the subsidiarity concept, but also offers a window of opportunity to unite and valorize existing research, and to promote future cooperation in policy relevant research among Flemish universities.

Conference language

The conference language is English

Registration

The entrance is free. Registration is required.
Please confirm your participation (name and affiliation)
before **September 30th, 2011** to: vsbb@ua.ac.be



09.00-09.30h **Registration**

09.30-9.45h **Welcome and introduction**

Mr. Hugo Durieux (Director Flemish Research Centre on International Policy)

MORNING SESSION

THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL PERSPECTIVES

9.45-10.15h **Subsidiarity, anarchism, and the governance of complexity**

Speaker: Mr. Hugo Durieux (Steunpunt Buitenlands Beleid, Universiteit Antwerpen)

10.15-10.45h **Historical reflections on the principle of subsidiarity in the European Union**

Speaker: Em. Prof. Dr. Emiel Lamberts (KULeuven)

10.45-11.15h **The neverending story: how the adoption of the subsidiarity principle contributed to old and new conflicts**

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Bertjan Verbeek (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

11.15-11.30h **Coffee break**

11.30-12.00h **Global subsidiarity and the promise of democracy**

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Kalypto Nicolaidis (University of Oxford)

12.00-12.30h **The role of subsidiarity in multilevel trade governance**

Speaker: Dr. Alexia Herwig (Universiteit Antwerpen)

12.00-12.30h **Dealing with the common interest: Subsidiary obligations in international law**

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Koen De Feyter (Universiteit Antwerpen)

13.00-14.00h **Lunch**

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSION 1

FLANDERS AND SUBSIDIARITY

14.00-14.20h **Subsidiarity, multilevel governance & Flemish sub-state diplomacy: conflict, duplication or complementary to the central level?**

Speaker: Dr. David Crikemans (Steunpunt Buitenlands Beleid, Universiteit Antwerpen)

14.20-14.40h **The subsidiarity mechanism as a tool for inter-level dialogue in Belgium: on 'regional blindness' and cooperative flaws**

Speakers: Prof. Dr. Patricia Popelier & Mr. Werner Vandenbruwaene (Universiteit Antwerpen)

14.40-15.20h **Comments and discussion**

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSION 2

SUBSIDIARITY AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

14.00-14.20h **European development cooperation. In between the local and the global**

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Paul Hoebink (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

14.20-14.40h **European division of labour and decentralised cooperation: are aid effectiveness and subsidiarity compatible?**

Speakers: Mr. Evert Waeterloos (Steunpunt Buitenlands Beleid, Universiteit Antwerpen) & Prof. Dr. Robrecht Renard (Universiteit Antwerpen)

14.40-15.20h **Comments and discussion**

15.20-15.40h **Coffee break**

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSION 3

SUBSIDIARITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

15.40-16.00h **Subsidiarity, cultural diversity and the trade-culture quandary**

Speaker: Dr. Jan Loisen (Steunpunt Buitenlands Beleid, Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

16.00-16.20h **Public service objectives and power games: how subsidiarity issues cloud debates on the future of public broadcasting**

Speaker: Dr. Karen Donders (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

16.20-17.00h **Comments and discussion**

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSION 4

SUBSIDIARITY AND TRADE POLICY

15.40-16.00h **Subsidiarity and EU trade policy: Overview of the (complex) discussion, Treaty of Lisbon, and implications for Flanders**

Speaker: Dr. Ferdi De Ville (Steunpunt Buitenlands Beleid, Universiteit Gent)

16.00-16.20h **Forum shopping in the global intellectual property regime**

Speaker: Prof. Dr. Dirk De Bièvre (Universiteit Antwerpen)

16.20-17.00h **Comments and discussion**

17.00-17.30h **CONCLUSIONS**

17.30-18.30h **Reception**