

To: Participants in TED 1
From: Christopher Pollitt
Date: 14 November 2007
Re: TED 1 – The first NISPAcee-EGPA Trans-European Dialogue
“Towards the Neo-Weberian State? Europe and Beyond”

HOW TED 1 WILL BE STRUCTURED – AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR YOU AS A PARTICIPANT

The ‘D’ in TED is for dialogue, and it is dialogue rather than the formal presentation of papers that is our central aim for this first exchange. The aim of this note is to explain how we hope the dialogue will work, and what the implications are for you in terms of things for you to do before you come.

As you already know, every participant has been asked to produce a small number of short propositions (one or two sentences each) relevant to the central theme. Some of you have already done that (thank you). So the first thing we need to ask you is:

- *Please send in your propositions by 14 December 2007 at the latest. We need to have them all in by then; both so that we can distribute them to all the other participants, and so that we can ourselves analyse and group them to facilitate the dialogue. They should be in a Word file with your name on top. Email your propositions to both: Christopher.Pollitt@soc.kuleuven.be and poucek@fsv.cuni.cz.*

Christopher Pollitt and Martin Potucek will act as ‘synthesizers’. They will attempt to group the propositions and will also be given opportunities during the first day’s debate to identify patterns or cross-connections between propositions, and to draw out consequences.

Second, when you receive the full set of propositions from us (some time after Christmas):

- *Please read through all the propositions before you arrive at TED, so that you are ready to take part in the debate.*

Third:

- *Please come prepared to say something short (maximum 10 minutes) to clarify and elaborate your own propositions. On the first day we will be going round the table asking for these short contributions.*

Of course, not everyone will be asked to read out and elaborate every proposition they have made. That would probably result in unnecessary repetition, and would take too long. However, while we cannot forecast the exact trajectory of the debate in advance (if we could, there would not be much point in meeting), we will be aiming to encourage

everyone to say something about their own propositions, and about the reasons behind them. (Two or more participants may have made the same proposition, but not necessarily for the same set of reasons.) In preparing your remarks, it may be helpful to think in terms of the three main dimensions of models such as the Neo-Weberian State, or NPM, namely:

1. Theoretical
2. Empirical
3. Normative.

This round-the-table debate about the propositions will occupy the first part of our meeting. The second part will be given over to the presentation of particular papers which have large implications for our theme. Geert Bouckaert and Wolfgang Drechsler are already in touch with those individuals who we hope will act as presenters in this way. These paper-presenters will be 'excused' from presenting propositions in the earlier part of the meeting.

Finally, to conclude, we will have a round-up at which we re-assess the propositions in the light of our earlier debate, and of the presented papers. During this round-up we will also consider issues of future research and publications.