

## **UACES Scholarship 2007**

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### ***Outline of Project***

The overall project seeks to examine the responses of national civil society actors in France to the 'Europeanisation of Sustainable Development'. Sustainable Development (SD) offers an exciting context to explore civil society actors' responses to traditional (biodiversity) and new (biotechnology) environmentally related policies. In this way, the project explores the mobilisation of French associations in response to EU regulatory pressure within the policy context of SD. It is argued that the resource base of an association and its domestic and supranational political opportunity structures are key determinants to the differential response of national civil society associations. As a result, this scholarship has allowed me to conduct interviews with policy-makers and associations in Paris, Brussels and Florence. The data accumulated from this endeavour has proved to be vital to the completion of the overall project.

### ***Academic Achievements***

I dedicated my time abroad to (19) interviews and archival research. In Paris, I interviewed 6 representatives from the Environment and Agricultural Ministries, as well as 4 representatives from Attac-France, France Nature Environnement, Confédération Paysanne and WWF-France. Additionally, I conducted archival research at the Sciences-Po and the Francois Mitterrand libraries in Paris. In Brussels, I conducted 5 interviews with officials from DG for Environment (Unit 4) as well as Trade. In terms of NGOs, I met with two representatives from Birdlife-EU. In Florence, I spent all my time conducting interviews with 7 officials from the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA).

### ***Use of Resources, Facilities Abroad***

I would, firstly, like to acknowledge the financial support provided by UACES and the European Commission. Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the access granted to the Sciences-po and Francois Mitterrand libraries. They also provided me the opportunity to access on-site electronic resources.

### ***Positive Aspects***

Above all, my periods abroad in Paris, Brussels and Florence allowed me to significantly add new information to my existing data set. Given the multi-level nature of the project, it was vital to have the opportunity to conduct research in all three cities. These research trips allowed me to benefit from a more comprehensive view of civil society mobilisation in the EU.

### ***Negative Aspects***

I found it very difficult to set aside time in my agenda for these trips. Although they proved vitally important, teaching obligations and thesis deadlines forced me to continue working abroad. I would advise future applicants to bear this in mind, and be prepared to work on thesis chapters abroad.