

**Banning the ban:
Challenging the "Verbotkultur" in Europe**

**Wednesday, 19 March 2014
12.00–14.00**

Venue: Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit, Avenue de Cortenbergh 71,
1000 Brussels

About the event

More and more politicians and public officials try to regulate the behavior of citizens by banning products and actions they consider to be harmful: from the use of tobacco to vacuum cleaners. In German there is even a word naming this culture of overregulation – it is called "Verbotkultur". As a consequence, we are witnessing opposition and even organized movements against the so-called "nanny state". In Denmark, the organisation "Anti Forbud Danmark" proposed to subject all laws prohibiting a certain action to a critical evaluation. According to the organisation, if a certain law has not shown any positive impact after two years, it should be eliminated. Prohibition and overregulation limit people's freedom to make choices and thus restrains their space for free and responsible action. This event aims at critically assessing if Europe is engaged on a path towards growing prohibition. What effect does Verbotkultur have on citizens? Are responsible decisions based on free and responsible thinking not the better way to go?

Invitation

Welcome

Hans H. Stein

Director International Political Dialogue
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Panel

Holger Kraemer MEP

Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and
Food Safety

Jacob Mchangama

Director of Legal Affairs, Center for Political Studies (CEPOS)

Maija Laurila

Head of Unit, Product and Service Safety, DG SANCO, European
Commission

Stephen Russell

Secretary-General, European Association for the Co-ordination of
Consumer Representation in Standardisation (ANEC)

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Kindly register for this event before 18 March here: <http://tinyurl.com/Verbotkultur> or email register.brussels@fnst.org!

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