



## BRUSSELS BRIEF

05/2013



### Emna Menif on Tunisia today: "Moderate Islamism is a western illusion"

The joyful spirit that reverberated throughout Tunisia during the first weeks of the Arab Spring, imbuing particularly young people with high hopes for a future which they would actively shape, has disappeared, Emna Menif stated. One year after the onset of the Arab Spring, the political reality is rather grim.

"We, the heirs of the Arab Spring Revolution cannot allow them to turn Tunisia into a republic of believers instead of a republic of citizens," Menif emphasized.

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### Upcoming Event: "Social Market Economy: a Blueprint for Europe?" on 26 March 2013

The German social market economy is based on competitiveness, free trade and social progress. The interplay between entrepreneurial forces, trade unions and employer associations creates social balance. Despite the global banking and economic crises, Germany has proven economically resilient.

Michael Theurer MEP (ALDE) and Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué will take about what makes the German model so successful.

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### "Liberty does not have borders": Student Activism at the European Students for Liberty Conference 2013

"Liberty does not have borders", that is the view of the European Students for Liberty. They organised their second annual European conference to connect liberal students from all around the world. The venue was the University of Leuven and the conference was hosted by the Classical Liberal Students Association (LVSU) Leuven.

Speakers from all over the world came to Leuven to discuss various aspects of liberty. Hans H. Stein welcomed the students and introduced them to the work of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF). He encouraged



### Roundtable on Roma Integration Strategies in Central and South-Eastern Europe, 8 April

"You cannot walk straight when the road is bent". This traditional Roma saying exemplifies the challenge Europe faces when it comes to Roma integration. Without a radical change to the current pace of integration, especially the Roma communities of Central and South-Eastern Europe will continue to face dire conditions.

To discuss the problems of Roma integration and concrete policy recommendations, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, the European Liberal Forum and the Centre for Liberal Studies organize a roundtable discussion on the occasion of the International Roma Day on the 8 April 2013.

them to connect with the FNF staff in their home countries and to become activists for liberty.

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### European Commission issues proposal on enhancing the democracy of European Parliament Elections

Last week, the European Commission published a proposal on democratic improvements for the upcoming EP elections scheduled for May 2014. The document takes up four main recommendations the aim of which are to better inform voters and encourage a pan-European debate with the intention to increase the voter turnout.

The Commission recommends that the European political parties nominate a candidate for Commission President and they display their European political party affiliation during their campaign in the member states. Voters should be informed about the candidate for President of the Commission by the national parties during the campaign. Furthermore, the Commission calls on the member states to agree on a singly common voting day.

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Human Rights

### Bringing war criminals to justice and justice to victims: FNF visits the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

The support of human rights belongs to the priorities of the work of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in Germany as well as abroad. In this context the foundation is strengthening its cooperation with institutions and organizations that defend human rights and denounce injustice. Against this background representatives of the FNF visited the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

"Bringing war criminals to justice and justice to victims" is one of the objectives of the ICTY. How successful has the ICTY been in achieving this objective since its establishment in 1993? This was one of the questions raised in an intensive discussion with Peter Mc Closkey, Senior Trial Attorney, who gave a vivid presentation and shared his personal experiences of the beginnings of the ICTY's work in the Former Yugoslavia.

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## Wichtige Termine

21.03.2013 [Meeting of the Environment Council \(ENVI\)](#), Brussels 26.03.2013 FNF event: "[Social market economy: a blueprint for Europe?](#)", Brussels 31.03.2013 Easter

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