



07/2013



Upcoming event: "Obama's second 100 days in office: Standing still or moving forward?"

Tuesday, 23 April 2013
12-14.00h

For his second 100 days in office President Obama will be scrutinized on how he is performing on his campaign promises this time. What direction and priorities has Obama set for foreign policy? Can the aspired energy independence of the US be achieved and how will this affect the President's foreign policy? What are Obama's next steps in immigration reform? And will Obama be remembered as the President under whom the EU-US Free Trade Agreement was implemented and the transatlantic relationship strengthened?

[mehr](#)



Upcoming event: "Bright minds and ingenious ideas - Europe as an Innovation Union"

Thursday, 25 April 2013
12 - 14.00h

The Innovation Union was presented as a flagship initiative of the Europe 2020 strategy. Its programme is ambitious and wide-ranging. Which role does innovation play? How do we make the EU more innovation-friendly? What obstacles are there? How do we plan to promote innovation? How can the existing creative potential be used more efficiently to safeguard growth and prosperity in Europe in the long run? And last, but not least: Does the European Union itself require a new set-up to achieve these goals?

[mehr](#)



Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom opens office in Athens

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) has opened an office in Athens. The foundation has been active in Greece since 2012 after having been re-invited to Greece by the Greek government. It aims to promote the principle of freedom and the ideas of liberalism in all areas of society, both in Germany and abroad. Partners in Greece are liberal parties, think tanks and civil society organizations. The inaugural reception on the occasion took place at the Institute of International Relations of Panteion University. Many prominent guests accepted the invitation of the foundation.



FNF Greece: Countering stereotypes and prejudices on the European level

A political heavyweight joined forces with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom and its Greek partner organisation "Forum for Greece", who together with the kind support of "Neolaia Evropaiki Ekfrasi" hosted a conference on "North-South Relations in the EU - Clashes of National Stereotypes in a Period of Economic Crisis" in Athens. Kostis Hatzidakis, Greek Minister for Infrastructure and Development, spoke on the political impacts of the sovereign debt crisis and its implications for the relationship between European people. "The eurozone was established to end the 'civil wars' between national currencies", the minister said,

The vice-chairman of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Dr. Wolf-Dieter Zumpfort, offered the welcome remarks, expressing his confidence on the Foundation's work "for closer civil society co-operation" in the crisis-ridden country.

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"but also to guarantee a dynamic Europe where the European peoples move closer together."

German Ambassador Wolfgang Dold reassured the international audience of Germany's commitment to Europe by quoting Germany's Federal President Joachim Gauck: "It is my heartfelt conviction that in Germany more Europe does not mean a German Europe. For us, more Europe means a European Germany!"

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Entrepreneurship: unleashing France's potential

France remains a major economic player. It ranks 5th worldwide in terms of GDP per capita and is in 4th position in attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). However, preoccupation about the future of France is growing in Paris and Brussels. Indeed, job creation is stagnating, unemployment rising and entrepreneurs encounter heavy burdens hampering their efforts to do business and thus contribute to economic growth.

France's entrepreneurial potential and the necessary measures to support it were the topics of a conference organized by the European Liberal Forum, Alternative Libérale and the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung's Brussels office on 6 April in Paris at the Société d'encouragement pour l'industrie nationale.

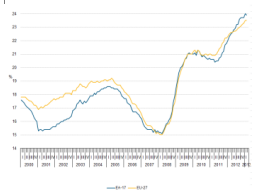
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Celebrating Europe in Maastricht

On 8 May, the eve of Europe day, the European Liberal Forum, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, D66 and European partners jointly organise "Celebrating Europe". The programme starts with an interactive session led by Jan Paternotte.

After this session there are interviews in the 'college-tour' format. Emil Kirjas, Secretary-General of Liberal International, will interview economist Ewald Engelen, German-Belgian Culture Minister Isabelle Weykmans and last but not least Vice-President of the European Commission Neelie Kroes. The speakers programme is followed by a cultural and musical programme.

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Upcoming event: "To work or not to work - Tackling youth unemployment"

Wednesday, 15 May 2013
8.00 - 9.30h

Youth unemployment rates are at crisis levels across a number of EU member states. Across the EU they have reached an average of 23% and are as high as 59% in some member states. The European Commission as part of the Europe 2020 Strategy for Growth has called on all member states to draw up national plans to combat youth joblessness.

What measures have been taken? What more could be done?

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Animate Europe!

Don't forget: The foundation is running an International Comics Competition for upcoming artists this year with the title "Animate Europe!"

The first deadline, 14 June 2013 is nearing, and we are trying to reach comics artists all over Europe. What is their vision for the future of Europe?

Do you have an artistic streak yourself? Then we look forward to your contribution! Or do you know any young aspiring artists who might be interested? Then please spread the word!

mehr

Wichtige Termine

22.04.2013 [General Affairs Council \(GAC\)](#), Brussels 22.04.2013 [Agriculture and Fisheries \(AGRI FISH\)](#), Brussels 22.04.2013

[Foreign Affairs Council \(FAC\)](#), Brussels 23.04.2013 [Foreign Affairs Council \(FAC/Defence\)](#), Brussels 23.04.2013 [Agriculture and Fisheries Council \(AGRI FISH\)](#), Brussels 23.04.2013 FNF event: "[Obama's second 100 days in office: Standing still or moving forward?](#)", Brussels 25.04.2013 FNF event: "[Bright minds and ingenious ideas – Europe as an Innovation Union](#)", Brussels

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Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit | Internationaler Politikdialog | Dialogprogramm Brüssel | Avenue de Cortenbergh / Kortenberglaan 71 | B-1000 Brüssel | www.fnf-europe.org

Verantwortlich: Hans H. Stein, Redaktion: Christina Brunnenkamp