



## BRUSSELS BRIEF

4/2012



### Dialogprogramm Brüssel: Diskussion zur Zukunft des EU-Budgets

Es fällt uns allen bei der Durchsicht unserer privaten Kontoauszüge auf: Ausgaben wachsen stetig an, während Einnahmen nur zäh, wenn überhaupt, steigen. Wieso sollte es der Europäischen Union anders gehen? Mit dem Vertrag



### Liberal Family: Unexpected developments within the Greek liberal spectrum

It has been an interesting week for Greek liberals - not only with regard to the results of last weeks' EU summit, but also where their domestic party constellations are concerned. Was the liberal party spectrum on May 20 still a highly

von Lissabon haben sich die Mitgliedsstaaten so zum Beispiel zur Einrichtung des Europäischen Auswärtigen Dienstes (EAD) verpflichtet, der auf der Ausgabenseite zu Buche schlagen wird. Insgesamt möchte die Europäische Kommission den Haushalt der EU für 2014-2020 um fünf Prozent erhöhen. Dies stößt vor allem bei den Mitgliedstaaten, die durch die Eurokrise zum Sparen angehalten sind, auf Protest. Mats Persson, Direktor des britischen Think Tanks Open Europe, und die Europaabgeordneten Michael Theurer (ALDE) und Martin Callanan (ECR) diskutierten Reformvorschläge für den nächsten Mehrjährigen Finanzrahmen.

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### EU News: ALDE position paper on the eurozone

"We are facing the prospects of a lost decade of growth and employment and an absence of decisive leadership on how to tackle it. Political elites are sharply divided between the need for increasing spending to create growth and the pursuit of further budgetary consolidation. Neither of these two solutions alone can work - more austerity will drive the EU into a prolonged recession whilst uncontrolled spending will increase public debt to unsustainable levels" says Guy Verhofstadt, ALDE group leader in the European Parliament. The recent ALDE position paper on the eurozone "Exiting the crisis" explains how sustainable growth and sound public finances go together.

fragmented one, consisting of three parties with around two percent each, this changed radically within only two days. It started with Dora Bakoyannis, Chairwoman of the ELDR-member "Democratic Alliance" (2,55%), announcing that she will turn her back on the liberal family and head back to the conservative "Nea Dimokratia", of which she was expelled in March 2010. On the very next day, the chairman of the newly founded liberal grassroots movement "Recreate Greece!" (2,15%), Thanos Tzimeros, announced an electoral alliance with the third liberal player, Drasi (1,8%), of veteran politician Stefanos Manos.

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### Upcoming event: Between Confederacy and Federation: Panel discussion on June 6, 2012

At our event, we would like to conceptualize ways in which Europe could become a political union by consolidating federal principles, democratic structures and subsidiary arrangements. Will the result of the continuous unification in the end be a union of states or a European State, possibly legitimized by a referendum process in the member states? What could a "United States of Europe" look like? Would we need the right of initiative for the European Parliament, the Europeanization of voting rights, or the direct election of the president of the European Commission? What could a future constitution look like, if it were to embody both nation state and federal elements? Confirmed speakers include Dr Zsuzsa Breier, designated Secretary of State for European Affairs of the State of Hessen, and Dr Rainer Stinner, Spokesman on Foreign Policy, FDP Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag.

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### Personalia: European Voice widmet Michael Theurer ein Portrait

Die englischsprachige Wochenzeitung European Voice hat dem liberalen Europaabgeordneten Michael Theurer ein ganzseitiges Portrait gewidmet. Die Zeitung, die zur Economist Group gehört und in Brüssel erscheint, ist eine wichtige Informationsquelle für politische Multiplikatoren in Brüssel. Michael Theurer wurde im Januar dieses Jahres zum Vorsitzenden des Ausschusses für Haushaltskontrolle (CONT) im Europäischen Parlament gewählt. Eine große Herausforderung, für die Theurer laut European Voice ideale Eigenschaften mitbringt: "Theurer is helped by his training as an economist, his political nature and the close attention he pays to local voters."

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the German Bundestag.

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### Dialogue Programme Brussels: Strategies for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth

In early 2012, the board of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation approved a new strategy for the work abroad. Addressing climate change as an urgent global issue, it states: "Climate change is a global challenge with enormous economic and social consequences. For liberals especially, it implies a regulatory challenge: How are market-based incentives used to promote ecologically sensible behaviour effectively? How should the principle of liability be designed in relation to ecology? Which regulatory framework is required to achieve sensible adjustments to climate change?" Thus, the FNF's Brussels, Washington and Potsdam offices organised a three-fold conference on "Strategies for Climate Resilience and Sustainable Growth." A conference booklet documenting the contributions of the speakers and experts as well as a video documentary are now available.

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## Wichtige Termine

5.-8. Juni 2012 ALDE-CALD Summit 2012: "Trade: From Patronage to Partnership", Brüssel

**6. Juni 2012** Veranstaltung "Zwischen Staatenbund und Bundesstaat: Welches Modell für Europa?" in der Vertretung des Landes Hessen bei der EU, Brüssel

**7./ 8. Juni 2012** EU-Ministerrat für Justiz und Inneres, Luxemburg

**7./ 8. Juni 2012** EU-Ministerrat für Verkehr, Telekommunikation und Energie, Luxemburg

**11.-14. Juni 2012** Sitzungswoche des Europäischen Parlaments in Straßburg

**17. Juni 2012** Neuwahlen zum Parlament in Griechenland

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