

Friedrich Naumann  
STIFTUNG

# FÜR DIE FREIHEIT



## BRUSSELS BRIEF

12/2012



### **Dialogue Programme Brussels: FNF at the World Forum for Democracy, Strasbourg**

"Bridging the Gap - Democracy: Between Old Models and New Realities" was the theme of the first edition of the World Forum for Democracy organized by the Council of Europe (CoE) in Strasbourg. In view of recent



### **Dialogue Programme Brussels: Tradition. Identity. Progress. – Regions in Europe**

During the Open Days 2012, the biggest conference in the world of regional and urban policies, the latest discussion of the FNF-event series "Discussions on Europe" was all about Regions. How will they balance the triad of tradition,

developments in the Southern and Eastern European Neighbourhood the CoE initiated a debate on the state of democracy in the world by bringing together political leaders, national and local elected representatives, civil society activists as well as academics and journalists. FNF was a partner in the forum and together with the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) co-organizer of the round table "Moving beyond Electoral Democracies - Furthering Level Playing Fields in the Electoral Process".

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### FNF in Griechenland: Erfolgreiche Auftaktkonferenz in Xylokastro, Korinth

In Kooperation mit der pro-europäischen NGO Evropaiki Ekfrasi ("European Expression") lud die Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit rund fünfzig liberale Persönlichkeiten aus Politik und Zivilgesellschaft zur Tagung "Greece - Towards a liberal era" nach Xylokastro ein. Mit einem positiven Ergebnis ging diese erste Konferenz seit Wiederaufnahme der Aktivitäten der FNF in Griechenland zu Ende. Nach intensiven dreitägigen Beratungen vereinbarten die Konferenzteilnehmer eine Bündelung der liberalen Kräfte Griechenlands und eine stärkere Zusammenarbeit untereinander.

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identity and progress in the future? During the panel discussion, which was co-hosted by the Saxony Liaison Office in Brussels, Saxon State Minister Jürgen Martens, Bernd Biervert, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefcovic, Sean O'Curreen, Secretary General of the ALDE Group at the Committee of the Regions, Michael Theurer MEP, Substitute Member of the Committee on Regional Development, and Rob van Eijkeren, Co-ordinator of the House of the Dutch Provinces shared their insights.

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### Dialogue Programme European Integration: Conference on Migration and Social Mobility

Young European liberal decision-makers took part in a two-day conference about Migration and Social Mobility in Malmö, Sweden, organised by the European Liberal Forum (ELF), with the support of the Bertil Ohlin Institute (Sweden) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom. In an interactive format, the conference highlighted the benefits and need for a liberal migration policy, especially given the economic and financial crisis currently affecting Europe. High-profiled speakers included the Swedish Minister for Migration Policy, Tobias Billström, Swedish MEP Cecilia Wikström, German MP Johannes Vogel, and Swedish MP Johan Hedin.

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### EU Research: Bertelsmann Foundation published study on "The Value of Europe"

The latest edition of "spotlight Europe" is all about the value of Europe. "Do the citizens of the EU actually know what it is worth to them personally? The surveys increasingly suggest that they reject it and regard it with contempt. After living for years of crisis, many people have started to cast doubt on the whole notion of integration, and on the ability of the politicians involved to find meaningful solutions to the crisis. In the end this is all about democracy. In the end it's the citizens that will have the final say", says Joachim Fritz-Vannahme, Program Director of the project "The future of Europe" at Bertelsmann Foundation.

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### Dialogue Programme Brussels: Mabuhay! Philippine Liberal Congressmen in Brussels

A delegation of six progressive liberal Congressmen of the ruling Liberal Party of the Philippines as well as the President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines visited Brussels in October. On their agenda were meetings with Members of the European Parliament, European Commissioner Karel de Gucht, and European liberals whom they engaged in discussions on free trade, open markets and the relations of the EU and the Philippines in the context of ASEAN.

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## Wichtige Termine

**18.-19.10.2012** [European Council](#), Brussels

**22.10.2012** [Agriculture and Fisheries Council](#), Luxembourg

**25.10.2012** [Justice and Home Affairs Council](#), Luxembourg

**25.10.2012** [Environment Council](#), Luxembourg

**22.-26.10.2012** [European Parliament Plenary Meeting](#), Strasbourg

**24.10.2012** FNF Transatlantic Dialogue Luncheon in cooperation with the AJC Transatlantic Institute on "Crime without Punishment? Stopping Hezbollah's Terrorist and Criminal Activities", 16.00-17.30h, Brussels

**26.10.2012** FNF High Noon Lunchtime Debate in cooperation with European Students for Liberty (ESFL) on "One Global Trade Regime or Many? Does Free Trade Need Bilateral Agreements?", 12.00-14.00h, Brussels

**29.10.2012** [Transport, Telecoms and Energy Council](#), Luxembourg

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