

BRUSSELS BRIEF

17/2014



Upcoming event: "Overcoming the tragedy - from WWI to the building of the European Union", 4 November 2014

The year 2014 reminds us of the beginning of the First World War - to which the years between 1914 and 1945 appear as an inevitable succession. We reflect on the mighty power that is inherent in the idea of peace, freedom, human dignity and the rule of law -- driving forces behind the founding of the European Community. What visions did liberals have back in the beginning of the 20th century for Europe? What do liberals propose for the difficulties lying ahead?

[mehr](#)



Save the Date: Helen Zille, PM of the Western Cape Province in South Africa to speak in Brussels, 6 November 2014

Helen Zille, Premier of the South African Western Cape Province and Leader of the South African Democratic Alliance, has been an outspoken advocate for civil and political rights all her life. In her political career Zille continues to challenge the ruling government of President Zuma on a number of issues. Zille will be speaking at a public event at the Bibliothèque Solvay in Brussels on 6 November 2014 at 19.00h. (Invitation to follow).

[mehr](#)



Africa Rising: Free Trade on the fastest growing continent in the world

Will Africa become a new global economic player and make use of its abundant natural resources? Olivier Kamitatu, President of the Africa Liberal Network (ALN) stressed at a public event hosted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation the potential a Free Trade Area within the African continent could have to fight the continent's constant struggle with poverty and high unemployment rates. Sean Woolfrey, Policy Officer at ECDPM took a look at the issue from a European perspective.

[mehr](#)



ALN goes Brussels: Exchange on Africa-EU cooperation and political communication

Representatives from various African liberal parties visited the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in Brussels, entering a dialogue with European officials on the status quo of African-European cooperation and how it should be shaped in the future in order to support economic development in Africa and also to strengthen common liberal ties. They also seized the opportunity to deepen their knowledge about how political campaigning is done in Europe.

[mehr](#)



Golden Rice - blessing or threat?

Golden Rice is genetically engineered rice, developed with a humanitarian purpose in mind. However, several organisations have also been campaigning against it. Dr. Christel Happach-Kasan, Prof. Anne Glover and Dr. Gijs A. Kleter discussed the advantages and potential risks of Golden Rice as well as genetically modified food generally. According to Prof. Anne Glover there is no evidence that genetically modified products have higher risks in terms of food safety than other crops.

mehr



Ralf Dahrendorf Roundtable Study Launch, 5 November 2014

How do populist and anti-immigration parties gain support? How should they be dealt with? In the context of launching the study "European Populism and Winning the Immigration Debate" by the European Liberal Forum (ELF), the authors of the study and host Cecilia Wikström MEP will lead an interactive discussion on these questions.

mehr

Wichtige Termine

01.11.2014: New European Commission takes office 04.11.2014: Upcoming Event: "[Overcoming the Tragedy -- from WW I to the building of the European Union](#)" 06.11.2014: [Save the Date: Public Event: "Helen Zille: South Africa's narrow path between liberal principles and leftist populism"](#) 20.-22.11.2014 [ALDE Party Congress](#), Lisbon

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