

BRUSSELS BRIEF

02/2013



Upcoming Event: "Limits of personal freedom: Civil rights of soldiers under attack?"

Unlike civilians, enlisted soldiers have to accept some constraints concerning their political and civil rights. Among the member states of the EU, those constraints differ in terms of scope. Soldiers may be prohibited from running for public office, expressing their personal opinions of government policies or military missions or speaking about their sexual preferences. Within the military hierarchy, it can be difficult for soldiers to exercise their rights.

Who can soldiers turn to if their rights are being violated? What is the right balance between the principles of obedience and legitimate rights of soldiers as citizens?

Join our discussion on 19 February!

mehr



International Comic Strip Competition 2013: "Animate Europe!"

Who doesn't know him? Asterix the Gaul who rebelled against the Romans and in his adventures travelled all over Europe. He brought the tea across the Channel, relished Belgian Waterzooi and enjoyed Greek wine. A true European avant la lettre!

Other comic strip heroes aren't much impressed by barriers, be they geographical or mental, either.

Europe has an eventful past - What does its future look like? Do we even need a European "super hero" to rescue the Union?

What do you foresee for Europe? Animate Europe!

mehr



Upcoming Event: "The Security Situation in Mali: Is the CSDP dust in the wind?"

Since the coup d'état in March 2012, Islamist and other separatist groups have consolidated their operational base in the occupied territory in the north. Besides the obvious security threats to the EU, which the spreading of Islamism terrorism to neighboring states poses, the progress of economic and social developments in the whole region are threatened. France's solitary intervention in Mali is a reminder that the EU seems to be unable to take joint responsibility for security matters in its neighborhood and beyond. It raises the question whether the supposedly



Upcoming Event: "Griechenland - Liberale Konzepte für Entwicklung und Wohlstand"

Die Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit unterstützt intensiv den gesellschaftlichen und politischen Wandel in Griechenland. Das erneuerte Engagement der Stiftung fällt in eine Zeit tiefer Krise in Europa - und ganz besonders in Griechenland. Immer neue Rettungspakete erwecken den Anschein einer unendlichen Geschichte, der Entscheidungsträger und Meinungsbildner aus anderen EU-Staaten nicht länger zuhören möchten. Medienberichte aus Athen tun ein Übriges, das Negativimage zu fördern. Nach beinahe einem Jahr mit zahlreichen Aktivitäten und

'Common Security and Defense Policy' isn't merely a paper dragon. What are the implications of the crisis? Is there a future for CSDP?

Find it out on Monday, 25 February 2013!

mehr

konkreten Erfahrungen in Griechenland möchten wir zeigen, dass es durchaus auch ein anderes Griechenland gibt, das aktiv nach Lösungen für seine Probleme suchen möchte. Wir würden uns freuen, Sie am Donnerstag, 21. Februar 2013 ab 17.00 Uhr bei unserer Konferenz in Berlin begrüßen zu dürfen.

mehr



A bit of "Irish Luck": Dick Roche on the Priorities of the Irish EU Presidency

"Ireland has tended to punch well above her weight in terms of presidency programs and delivery," ALDE Vice President Dick Roche, Ireland's former EU affairs minister optimistically opened the first Liberal Breakfast of the year. A comparative advantage for smaller states such as Ireland, he continued, is that "smaller member states, probably because they are smaller, tend to be less delusional about their centrality in European affairs and tend as a consequence to be better consensus builders." The top priority of the Irish presidency, which stands under the motto "stability, jobs and growth", is to contribute to the stability of the Eurozone in this time of crisis. He conceded that this may be a very ambitious goal, but also that with a bit of Irish Luck, "Ireland could introduce some useful insights" on the matter.

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El-Amin "In the US, volunteers show their support with their hands and feet!"

Grassroots drumbeats won Obama's reelection in November 2012, Sara El-Amin, National Director of Training of the Obama Campaign 2012 proclaimed: "Efforts of thousands of volunteers, making millions of calls, sending emails, knocking on doors and sharing their enthusiasm for the democratic candidate with their neighbors and personal networks, had much more impact than the media narrative."

The Obama Campaign 2012 was the largest grass-roots effort in the history of campaign management, according to Obama's Campaign Manager Jim Messina. As the youngest female national director on the Obama campaign, Sara El-Amin oversaw training and campaign curriculum development for staff, volunteer leaders, and volunteers in all 50 states.

mehr

Wichtige Termine

07. / 08.02.2013 [European Council](#), Brussels 11.02.2013 [Eurogroup Meeting](#), Brussels 18.02.2013 [Foreign Affairs Council](#), Brussels 19.02.2013 FNF Event: High Noon Lunchtime Debate "[Limits of personal freedom: Civil rights of soldiers under attack?](#)", Brussels 21.02.2013 FNF Event: Konferenz "[Griechenland - Liberale Konzepte für neue Entwicklung und Wohlstand](#)", Berlin 25.02.2013 FNF Event: High Noon Lunchtime Debate: "[The Security Situation in Mali: Is the CSDP dust in the wind?](#)", Brussels

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