



05/2015



"Belgium = mini Europe" - Gwendolyn Rutten on how to overcome divisions and govern in difficult circumstances

The new Belgian coalition-government was sworn in last October. FNF together with the ALDE Party invited Gwendolyn Rutten, leader of Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Open VLD), to discuss the government's reform agenda. Adopting her usual optimistic point of view, Ms Rutten talked about the ambitious reform plans for the pensions and the tax systems. She also emphasized the necessity to overcome linguistic and cultural borders and increase regional cooperation. That way, Belgium and Benelux could be interesting models for the EU.

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Upcoming Event: "Argentina - on the brink of major change?"

EU-Argentina relations have encountered several stumbling stones in the past years. Argentinian President Cristina Kirchner has clearly chosen a conflictive discourse towards the EU and is being increasingly criticized both in Argentina and abroad. After prosecutor Alberto Nisman's mysterious death, mass protests took place in Buenos Aires and across the country. Partners of FNF in Argentina, working in the field of public policy and election observation will be presenting their work and give an assessment of the current political situation in Argentina.

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Upcoming Event: "Shale gas in Europe - potential gains and risks and its impact on foreign policy"

The shale gas revolution in the US has sparked a heated debate also in Europe. Lower energy prices and energy independence, especially in the context of conflict with and in the European neighbourhood, are the main arguments put forward in favour of shale gas extraction in Europe. But a possible rise in energy consumption, environmental risks and the technical question of how to regulate the extraction, are serious concerns.

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FNF Greece teams up with the Greek Liberal Monitor

Currently, the Greek liberal political spectrum is highly fragmented, without access to resources or media coverage, and therefore struggling to raise public awareness. A group of liberal-minded, media-related professionals decided to take their fate into their own hands and created their own media outlet. The initiators of www.liberalmonitor.gr intend their website to be a "communication nexus" for liberals both from abroad and Greece. FNF Greece is supporting the project.

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Human rights - is less more?

Fundamental rights risk losing importance due to an increase of international human rights conventions. This was the assumption discussed during the event "Expansion of human rights - blessing or curse?" organised by FNF in Brussels. Representatives from Europe and Asia discussed the phenomenon known as "human rights inflation" and agreed that human rights should not be understood as miracle cure for every problem in the world. Yet, the experts disagreed on the idea of prioritizing in the existing human rights conventions.

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Public Interpellations of Czech MEPs in Prague: Paradoxes of the Czech EU Membership

"TTIP has been enormously demonized in the Czech Republic. Yet I doubt the critics know what is inside. The treaty is actually quite good for the Czech Republic, especially for its entrepreneurs." With this clear statement, Pavel Telička, Czech MEP in the ALDE Group, opened the third debate of the series "Interpellations of Czech MEPs". The event took place in Prague, CERGE-EI on February 17th and was organised by the European Values Think-Tank in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

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Wichtige Termine

23.03.2015 Event: ["Argentina - on the brink of major change?"](#) 26.03.2015 Event: ["Shale gas in Europe – potential gains and risks and its impact on foreign policy"](#)

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

Verantwortlich: Hans H. Stein, Redaktion: Caroline Margaux Haury