

# BRUSSELS BRIEF

10/2015



## FNF Greece: "Emergency Economic Summit for Greece" stirs up unprecedented media coverage

What an encounter! FNF Vice-Chairman Karl-Heinz Paqué met Yanis Varoufakis, Finance Minister of Greece, and Nobel Laureate Thomas Sargent at the "Emergency Economic Summit for Greece" co-hosted by FNF and its American and Greek partners. The Greek newspaper Kathimerini called the confrontation between Varoufakis and Sargent a "clash of two cosmo-theories." Find out what other Greek journalists thought about the conference.

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## Upcoming Event: Security Policy in Ukraine - Challenges and Opportunities

The Minsk II agreement is unlikely to deliver the desired results. While Ukraine is shaken by Russian aggression its own difficulties with unstable government, corruption and hollowing out of the State also stand in the way of security and stability. To stabilise the country, Ukraine needs reform, among others of its national defense. Ukrainian experts will unfold their perspectives on security challenges facing the country and how to confront them. Join us on 4 June 2015.

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## Final workshop of the Dahrendorf Taskforce on the Future of Europe

From 17-19 May, FNF and ELF organised the final workshop of the Ralf Dahrendorf Taskforce on the Future of Europe. The meeting was held in Cambridge and brought together 22 participants from across Europe. Andrew Duff, former Member of the European Parliament and advisor to the Liberal Democrats, called upon liberals to talk frankly about the future of the European Union and not to shy away of tough questions on its future institutional set-up. Although he was optimistic about the possibilities to "flourish in times of crisis", he also admitted that "as all experiments, the EU can fail". His recommendations on the reform of the EU triggered fruitful discussions in each working group.

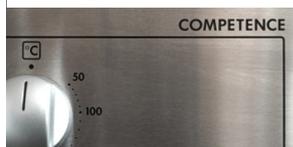
[mehr](#)



## Großbritanniens Parlament - Mehrheit für die Konservativen, doch polarisierter denn je

Das Resultat der britischen Parlamentswahlen war überraschend - vor allem für die beiden Gewinner selbst: die von Premierminister David Cameron angeführten Conservatives (Tories) und die Scottish National Party (SNP). Entgegen der Erwartungen erzielten die Tories mit 331 der Sitze die absolute Mehrheit. Die von Nick Clegg angeführten Liberalen gewannen lediglich acht Sitze; das schlechteste Wahlergebnis seit 1957. David Cameron wird vermehrt den rechten Flügel seiner Partei einbeziehen und zufrieden stellen müssen. Die beiden größten Herausforderungen in Camerons zweiter Amtszeit werden die Unabhängigkeitsbestrebungen Schottlands sein sowie der Verbleib Großbritanniens in der EU.

[mehr](#)



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### Dahrendorf Taskforce Publication Series

The current political debate on the division of competences within the EU complicates more than it clarifies. We see that discussions within this debate often skip directly to concrete policy, for example the notorious cucumber provisions, without addressing the underlying considerations of what is fundamentally at stake. Sticking with discussing matters on this superficial level we might – at best – end up with a nitty-gritty division of competences custom-made for today but worthless for tomorrow.

mehr



### Bye bye red tape?

"Euroskeptics don't annoy me because they are wrong; they annoy me because sometimes they are right," said Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission, on Tuesday when unveiling the Commission's "Better Regulation" agenda. His aim is to reduce red tape in Brussels by shifting the focus of EU legislation back to the heart of policy matters - away from trivia and details. A welcome initiative but will it succeed? Watch out for our liberal assessment of the "Better Regulation" program! In the meanwhile have a look at the Commission's documents and video outlining the new program.

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### Lunchtime Debate with Michael Ignatieff: Political Ethics in an Age of Terror

The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts in Brussels proved a majestic background for a High Level Lunch with Mr Michael Ignatieff. Ignatieff was in Brussels to talk about his acclaimed work "The Lesser Evil. Political Ethics in an Age of Terror". With the recent terrorist attacks in Europe and the IS menace in the Middle East in mind, this book - written amidst the "War on Terror" of George W. Bush - still could and should serve as a moral compass to liberal politicians dealing with terrorism.

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### #JustLikeYou Video Contest

In a perfect world, nobody would have to explain that they are "Just like you" irrespective of their gender and sexual identity, their ethnicity or beliefs. Unfortunately, we are not there yet. So join our colleagues in Sofia in their effort to show the world that everyone deserves the same rights and respects. So that one day #Justlikeyou will be a statement of the past!

mehr

## Wichtige Termine

28.05.2015: Upcoming Event in Brussels: ["Beyond Buzzwords: How will TTIP affect our everyday lives?"](#) 04.06.2015: Upcoming Event in Brussels: ["Security Policy in Ukraine - Challenges and Opportunities"](#)

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

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

