

## Seminar Report

### Liberal approaches to sustainable migration policies in the Mediterranean region

Brussels, 3 - 6 November 2009

#### Introduction

The seminar in general was very productive and fruitful in terms of receiving and sharing information with our liberal counterparts in the EU.



On the content of the seminar,

The mission to Brussels was two intensive working days. The first day was in of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom office in Brussels (The Dialogue Programme), where we were welcomed by Dr. Jürgen D.Wickert, the Director of the International Political Dialogue for European Institutions and North America. We listened carefully to the presentations of the experts and had the chance to ask and discuss with them the critical issues and our views as Arab Liberals. (Two of the presentations are attached to this report). The second day was in the Parliament where we met with the liberal officials in the EU and shared our views as liberal Arabs and Europeans.



I learned a lot on the issue of migration from the presentation of the experts in the first day in Freidrich Naumann Foundation in Brussels, and from the discussions with the liberal officials in the EU Parliament the next day. I learned also about how the EU perceives this important issue and its impact on EU policy and strategies. I learned about the current challenges of migration and the general principles and approaches that govern migration from inside and outside the EU. It became clear to me how migration is perceived differently in the Arab world than the EU. The Arab liberals that were present in our mission have their views and raised their concerns which focus mainly on the freedom of movement of people and on the rights of immigrants. On the other hand, the issue of migration has many problematic areas that have serious impacts on different EU countries. The EU wants to help for example those who run away from Arab or African countries seeking refuge from threats on their lives because of their political believes and actions, but it is not easy for the EU to control such movement that come from Africa and through the North African Arab countries.

I saw that the liberal officials that we met and heard in the EU parliament like Ms. **Annemie Neyts Uyttebroeck** (MEP, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europa (ALDE), President of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR)- and **Baroness Sarah Ludford** (Member of the European Parliament for London, member of the House of Lords and spokeswomen for the Liberal Democrat European Justice and Human rights) understand completely the concerns of the



Arab liberals and trying hard to pass these messages to the EU parliament through their work. However, my Arab colleagues and I took the chance to make our voice heard

clearly and put our concerns on migration and relevant topics crystal clear to them directly and very honestly.

There was clear recommendation that whatever work that need to be accomplished on migration has to be the result of concrete cooperation between the countries on the two shores of the Mediterranean, and that the EU alone cannot solve the problems that result from migration alone. The solution as perceived and presented cannot be looked at from a security perspective, nor only from a political perspective, but rather through a comprehensive approach by key stakeholders in the EU and Arab countries. Furthermore, there is the human rights aspect that needs to be considered; there is the legal aspect especially on issues such as detention; and there is the economic aspect and criminal aspect.

The Arab liberals passed the message that as long as the EU supports Arab dictatorships that result in continued poverty and unemployment in the Arab countries, then there will be always large numbers of Arabs who will run away from such intolerable environment to the other side of the Mediterranean in order to live in a democracy and have equal opportunity to earn and have a decent life.

Additionally, both Arab and Liberal Europeans discussed the positive sides of migration on both the Arab world and the EU. The Arab countries get remittances from the Arabs who go and work in EU countries, while the EU receives well educated and skillful Arab professionals that contribute positively to the development process in the EU.

Migration, as we were told, can be looked as a Win-Win situation, as stated by the UN who tries always to display the benefits of migration, and how migrants increase employment in destination country communities, without taking jobs. We were informed of the Comprehensive EU Migration Policy and the New 5-years Plan 'Stockholm Programme'. We were informed of Frontex Agency and its work on migration.

Personally, I participated in all the meetings that took place in Brussels and furthermore I was honoured to respond to Dr. Meinardus request for me to speak on the Palestinian views on migration and the general situation in Palestine in the EU Parliament, and the response from our EU liberals was satisfactory to me.

#### On the logistics

The hotel was good and the food also. Time was well organized and we enjoyed the social events on dinner. The organizers from FNF Brussels office were very kind and well organized. However, the only thing that was problematic in my trip was the Alitalia flight and the transit. This forced me to stay one more night in Rome because of the delay of Alitalia to leave from Brussels.



## Programme Draft

### Seminar

"Liberal approaches to sustainable migration policies  
in the Mediterranean region"

Brussels, 3 – 6 November 2009

<b>Programme:</b>	Dr Ellen Madeker +32 (0)477 49 53 52
<b>Organisation:</b>	Christina Brunnenkamp +32 (0)477 49 00 91
<b>Hotel:</b>	Martin's Central Park Boulevard Charlemagne 80 B – 1000 Brussels T: +32 (0)2 230 85 55 F: +32 (0)2 230 56 35

## Tuesday, 3 November 2009

### Arrival at Brussels airport and transfer to the hotel

Please look for the driver with the logo of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in the entrance hall of the airport!

Check-in at the hotel

### Hotel Martin's Central Park

Boulevard Charlemagne 80

B-1000 Brussels

T: +32 (0)2 230 85 55

### 19.30 Welcome Dinner

with participation of *Dr Jürgen D. Wickert*, Director, International Political Dialogue, European Institutions and North America, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, Brussels

### Restaurant "Balthazar"

Rue Archimède 63

B-1000 Brussels

Tel: +32 (0)2 742 06 00

## Wednesday, 4 November 2009

- 8.45 Meeting in the lobby of the hotel and transfer by bus to the office of the Dialogue Programme Brussels, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Venue: Dialogue Programme Brussels (DPB), Ave. de Cortenbergh 118, B-1000 Brussels, Theodor Heuss room

### 9.00 Welcome and introduction to the programme

*Dr Jürgen D. Wickert*, Director, International Political Dialogue, European Institutions and North America, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

*Dr Ronald Meinardus*, Regional Director Mediterranean Countries, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

### 9.15 Presentation of the International Political Dialogue of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

*Dr Ellen Madeker*, Programme Manager, Dialogue Programme Brussels, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

### 9.30 Current challenges of migration: General principles and approaches from inside and outside the EU

*Lukas Gehrke*, Head of Brussels Mission, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

### 11.00 Coffee break

### 11.15 Tackling irregular migration into the European Union: Border security and European return policy – with special focus on countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea

*Ana I. Sánchez Ruiz*, Policy officer, Borders, Border management and return

policy, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security, European Commission

*Chadi Sidhom*, Project Coordinator Migration and Asylum, Euromediterranean Human rights Network (EMHRN)

13.00 End of session and transfer to the hotel

13.15 Lunch

Restaurant "Icones"  
Hotel Martin's Central Park

Venue: Hotel Martin's Central Park, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, B-1000 Brussels, room Jade (1st floor)

15.30 **Legal migration into the European Union: Economic considerations and development policies of host countries and home countries**

*Francesco Luciani*, Policy officer, International aspects of migration, Directorate-General Justice, Freedom and Security (JLS), European Commission

16.15 Coffee break

16.30 **Documentary film "Europe beyond the dream" by Johanna Tschautscher**

This documentary film deals with illegal immigration into the European Union and shows the harsh reality of the conditions of the journey and arrival of illegal immigrants in Europe – far from their hopes and expectations. The movie has been shown in the countries concerned by emigration, to make people aware of the real situation and problems they will face.

18.00 End of session

Evening at your own disposal

Thursday, 5 November 2009

Please carry your passport with you for security checks in the European Parliament.

9.00 Meeting in the hotel lobby and transfer by bus to the European Parliament

9.15 Check-in at the European Parliament, Entrance Altiero Spinelli

Conference venue: European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1000 Brussels, room (...)

9.30 **Roundtable discussion on "Liberal approaches to sustainable migration policies in the Mediterranean region"**

Introduction and facilitation:

*Dr Ronald Meinardus*, Regional Director Mediterranean Countries, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Keynote speakers:

*Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck MEP*, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europa (ALDE), President of the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR)

*Csilla Hatvany*, Research fellow, International topics and questions on liberalism research, Liberal Institute of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for

Freedom

*Mohamed Tamaldou*, President, Network of Arab Liberals (NAL)

*Luigi De Magistris MEP*, ALDE, Member of the Delegation for relations with Mashreq countries, Substitute in the Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, Substitute in the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council, European Parliament (tbc)

*Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP*, ALDE, Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, European Parliament (tbc)

*Antoniya Parvanova MEP*, ALDE, Vice-Chairwoman of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, Substitute of the Delegation for relations with Mashreq countries, European Parliament (tbc)

*Maria Vermorken*, Programme Manager Migrations, Central management of thematic budget lines under DCI and Facility for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries, Europe Aid Coordination Office, European Commission (tbc)

*Rolf Timans*, Head of Unit, Human Rights and Democratisation, Directorate-General for External Relations (RELEX), European Commission (tbc)

12.30 Transfer by bus back to the hotel

13.00 Lunch

Restaurant "Icones"

Hotel Martin's Central Park

Venue: Hotel Martin's Central Park, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, B-1000 Brussels, room Jade

15.00 The movement of human capital: labour market integration in the EU

*Jakob von Weizsäcker*, Resident Fellow, Think tank Bruegel (tbc)

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 Working groups

with participation of

*Denise Dittrich*, Desk Officer for Political Consultancy and International Policy Analysis, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Potsdam

*Philipp Hansen*, Political Advisor, European Liberal Democrats (ELDR)

*Csilla Hatvany*, Research Fellow, International topics and questions on liberalism research, Liberal Institute of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

18.30 Working group presentations and evaluation of the seminar

*Dr Ronald Meinardus*, Regional Director Mediterranean Countries, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

*Dr Ellen Madeker*, Programme Manager, Dialogue Programme Brussels, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

19.15 Meeting in the lobby of the hotel and walk to the restaurant

19.30 Closing Dinner

Restaurant "La Sublime Porte"

Rue Franklin18  
1000 Brussels  
T: +32 (0)2 732 61 10

Friday, 6 November 2009

Departure of the participants