



Brussels, 28 April 2014
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MEDIA ADVISORY

First EU- Southern Neighbourhood Civil Society Forum takes place in Brussels

More than 150 civil society organisations from the Southern Neighbourhood and Europe will gather in Brussels on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 April for the first EU-Southern Neighbourhood Civil Society Forum. The event, jointly organised by the European External Action Service, the European Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee, follows a year-long consultation process between the EU and Civil Society organisations aimed at improving dialogue between civil society, the EU and the authorities, and promoting reform in the region.

Over 2 days, participants from the EU institutions, civil society, academia and the media will discuss joint approaches for more inclusive, participatory and action-oriented dialogues between governments, EU institutions and civil society organisations.

The event takes place at the HQ of the European Economic and Social Committee, 99 Rue Belliard, Brussels. Journalists will be admitted on presentation of current press card. The programme of the event is below.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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Southern Neighbourhood Civil Society Forum

Brussels, 29 – 30 April, 2014

Tuesday 29th. April:

13.00 - 14.30 Arrivals and Registration - Coffee

14.30 - 15.30 Opening Plenary

MC: Claire Spencer, Chatham House

- Welcome by M. Henri Malosse, President EESC (tbc)
- Explanation of Seminar's Programme and Objectives

15.30 - 17.30 Panel debate with audience participation

'Youth Perspectives on the Arab Spring'

Moderator: Tania Mehanna, Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation

Panellists:

- Aya Seyam: Resala, Egypt
- Khadiija Ali: Libya Youth Forum
- Sadem Jebali: Young Arab Voices, Tunisia
- Alexia Kalaitzi: Media Diversity Institute, London
- Aya Haidar: Al Madad Foundation, UK/Syria

19.30 - 22.00 Dinner in 'The Ballroom', Renaissance Hotel

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Wednesday 30th. April:

09.00 - 09.30 Arrivals and Registration - Coffee

09.30 - 09.40 Introduction: Paul Gillespie, Irish Times

09.40 - 10.00 Keynote address

Štefan Füle, Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy

10.00 - 12.30 Panel debate with audience participation

'The Southern Neighbourhood: Regional Paradigms and Policies'

Moderator: Elizabeth Filippouli, Global Thinkers Forum

Panellists:

- Štefan Füle: Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy
- José Maria Zafra: President, External Relations Section, EESC (tbc)
- Ziad Abdel Samad: Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
- Shahira Amin: Index on Censorship, Egypt
- Sami Hourani: Leaders of Tomorrow

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 14.30 Plenary

MC: Randa Habib, Agence France Presse Foundation, Jordan

'The Civil Society Consultation Process: Preparation of the Working Groups'

Stephen Calleya: Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies

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14.30 - 16.30 Working Groups

Working Group 1: Media and Communicators

Working Group 2: Academics, Think-Tanks and Educators

Working Group 3: Civil Society Organisations

Working Group 4: Youth Organisations

16.30 - 17.00 Coffee

17.00 - 17.30 Working Group Rapporteurs' Reports

17.30 - 18.00 Closing address by M. Hugues Mingarelli, MD EEAS