

## WEEKLY UPDATE

14 - 18 March 2016

Week 12

### General

The upcoming week (21-25 March) is an eventful one. To highlight a few events: On Monday the [LIBE Committee](#) has an extraordinary meeting on the European Commission presentation of the communication "Back to Schengen - A Roadmap," the FRA report on equal employment opportunities for LGBT people, the Sale of Citizenship in EU Member States; and Equal Treatment in Employment and Occupation. On Wednesday the Foundation for European Progressive Studies has an event on "[The political background of the refugee crisis in Europe](#)," to review how politicians and the society in Central and Eastern Europe have responded to the current refugee crisis.

As for OSEPI...

### Updates (11-18 March)

- External Policy

14 March: Together with Amnesty International (AI), the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Save the Children and the International Federation for Human Rights, Srdjan took part in an emergency consultation with the Cabinet of the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, on the EU-Turkey deal. AI and Save the Children highlighted the legal problems in the deal. Srdjan also stressed how even in practical terms it is unworkable.

The same day Marta and Bram hosted a meeting of the Great Lakes Advocacy Group on the electoral process in the DRC, in which five Congolese civil society representatives provided analysis on growing repression from their respective regions, and presented their priorities for EU engagement to avoid further electoral manipulation and delay.

16 March: In partnership with colleagues from the Eurasia Programme (good to see P.O. back in Brussels!), the International Partnership for Human Rights, Chatham House and the MEPs Heidi Hautala and Ana Gomes, Srdjan organised a debate in the European Parliament on "Turkmenistan: Power, Politics and Petro-Authoritarianism".

17 & 18 March: Kersty and Pamela attended the EU-CSO Forum 2016 on "EU Engagement with Civil Society and Support for Human Rights".

- Internal Policy

11 March: Anca hosted a strategy meeting to coordinate advocacy and campaigning efforts during the implementation process of the EU 4th Anti-Money Laundering Directive (AMLD IV).

15 March: OSEPI organised a seminar with the European Parliament intergroups ARDI (anti-racism and diversity) and LGBTI for members of the European Parliament and their staff on how to respond to homophobic and xenophobic discourse. As a follow-up, ARDI has invited OSEPI to participate in an event on online hate speech.

- **Organisational activities**

15 March: Students from the Masters Programme in Political Science (with a concentration in EU policies) of the James Madison University, Virginia, visited OSEPI to find out more from Srdjan and Kersty about how we contribute to shaping the EU policy framework.

16 March: The OSEPI team convened for a half-day meeting on the 2017 strategy. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to dot the i's. Alex, Bram, Cynthia, Ellen, Loica and Pearly also visited the European Parliament as part of the advocacy workshop held last December.

17 March: Heather is half way through her sabbatical, a perfect opportunity for Neil to consult with her for a full day on the 2017 strategy, as well as share the [quarterly report](#).

This consultation coincided with Ellen's i-lunch on branding consistency. To ensure there is a consistent look and feel to OSEPI's outputs; and to assist the team with the tools they can use for their day-to-day tasks as well as for outreach and advocacy purposes, Ellen created templates for several document types which she presented to the team. This event brought to light the need for further discussions on where OSEPI stands where publications are concerned.

## Upcoming Events at OSEPI

24 March: Srdjan is hosting the EU Enlargement group meeting on the Paris EU-Western Balkans Summit within the framework of the Berlin Process.

## Media Update

In her capacity as leader of the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) Enabling Environment Working Group, Kersty finalised the [report of the 17<sup>th</sup> EU-NGO Human Rights Forum on Promoting & Protecting Civil Society Space](#). The report was supported by OSEPI.

Just in case you missed it, the external policy team produced a written contribution to the review of the EU's Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy: [Rethinking Human Rights in EU External Policies](#).

*As always we encourage you to share your feedback on the newsletter with [ellen.mulder@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:ellen.mulder@opensocietyfoundations.org).*