

WEEKLY UPDATE

4 - 8 April 2016

Week 15

General

At times, such as in the case of the Dutch referendum on the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, the outcome of a vote is disappointing. Let's hope for the best for voting scheduled to take place next week (11-15 April): the referendum on the permanent status of the Darfur region in Sudan and votes at the European Parliament (EP) on the EU system of national quotas for asylum claims and motions for resolutions concerning debates on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The EP will vote as it meets in plenary next week in Strasbourg.

As for OSEPI...

Updates (4-8 April)

- External Policy

4-6 April: Srdjan was in Paris meeting French and Italian civil society organisations (CSOs) and think tanks working on the armed drones and targeted killing policies.

7 April: Srdjan organised a meeting of the European Forum on Armed Drones (EFAD). On the agenda: a discussion of the second draft of EFAD's "Call to Action" (joint policy document on the armed drones and targeted killing) and a discussion on the survey about the future of EFAD.

- Internal Policy

5-6 April: On OSEPI's initiative, the EP hosted the first ever Roma week to commemorate 8th April – International Roma Day. OSEPI, 7 NGOs and 25 MEPs from 7 political groups, gathered to ensure the continuation of the EU institutions' work against anti-Gypsyism, recognise Roma's contribution to the European history, arts and culture and promote the positive image of Roma. The event enabled CSOs, young Roma, artists and experts from several European countries to engage in policy discussions with top EU decision-makers. As a result, the Slovakian Presidency of the EU (July-December 2016) has decided to lead on a Council Conclusion on Roma with a highlight on anti-Gypsyism and a Roma youth event will be organized in Bratislava in October 2016 in partnership with Roma youth networks that OSF supports: TernYpe, FERYP and PAKIV.

6-7 April: Loica attended the European Migration Forum in Brussels, organised by the Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee. On day 1 CSOs, EU Institutions and national and local authorities discussed labour migration, labour exploitation of undocumented migrants, and integration. Day 2 focused on the Commission's communication on the reform of the Common European Asylum System published the day before.

- Organisational activities

5 April: We waved off Anna "OSIFE" Defour in style after an office drink.

Upcoming OSEPI Events

11 April: OSEPI and Carnegie Europe will co-host a briefing for select EU officials and a private dinner on "Turkey–Russia–Syria: A New Strategic Triangle?" Neil, Iskra and Ellen, with the support of the Research Team, are leading on the initiative, organised as part of the Global Europe 2030 project that aims to enhance OSEPI's advocacy assets with the EU institutions and member states and advance new ideas and thinking among EU policy-makers. Neil will be moderating and Iskra will be participating in this 8th meeting of the series.

13 April: OSEPI and the Centre for European Reform will co-host the 4th meeting of the Amato group. The Amato group gathers high level politicians and civil servants active or engaged in the field of European justice and home affairs under the patronage of Giuliano Amato. On the agenda: solutions to Europe's ongoing refugee and Schengen crises, from the perspective of Greece and Turkey. Srdjan, Annalisa and Loïca are participating in the meeting.

14 April: Previously postponed due to the Brussels attacks, Srdjan has organised an informal gathering on "EU Enlargement and the Berlin Process: Prospects for the 2016 Western Balkans Summit in Paris"

Upcoming Events of Interest

12 April: European Policy Centre event "[BRIT IN, BRIT THIN or BREXIT: The Consequences of the Referendum](#)"

13 April: A CSOs debriefing of EU-Armenia Human Rights dialogues and pre-briefing of EU-Georgia Human Rights dialogues at the European External Action Service. Iskra is participating.

14 April: The EastWest Institute and Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik event on "Turkey and Domestic and External Actors in Syria: Interests and Conflicts." Srdjan is participating.

14 April: The European Centre for Development Policy Management event "[Regional integration dynamics in Africa](#)"

Media Update

Hot topics on @osfEUpolicy this week:

Top media Tweet earned 336 impressions

Today @Europarl_EN Sead Kazanxhiu unveils a unique sculpture of emblematic Roma individuals #EURomaweek
pic.twitter.com/LNqVAXjP5b



Top Tweet earned 5,808 impressions

In the #EU, media portrayals of #Ukraine reveal Europe's own self-interests:
bit.ly/PAI6Ve via @OpenSociety

OSF EU Policy @osfEUpolicy · 20h

Commemorating #Romaday with "Judgment in Hungary-The Trial for Serial Killing Against Roma"
@Europarl_EN osf.to/1SPJoWA #EURomaweek

As always we encourage you to share your feedback with ellen.mulder@opensocietyfoundations.org.