

WEEKLY UPDATE

7 - 11 March 2016

Week 11

General

The Brussels arena has the following on offer in the coming week: The Foreign Affairs and General Affairs Council meet on Monday. On Thursday and Friday the European Council meets, during which the heads of state will discuss further steps to address the migration and refugee crisis, the deal with Turkey, review the implementation of Country Specific Recommendations and discuss priorities for the 2016 European Semester. Also taking place on Thursday and Friday: the EU CSO Forum 2016 on “EU Engagement with Civil Society and Support for Human Rights”.

The Friedrich Naumann Stiftung event “Meet & Greet with Turkish Civil Society Representatives” takes place on Monday.

Wednesday equals strategy time for OSEPI staff! There will be an all staff discussion and question time on the overall 2017 strategy. To find out what else OSEPI is planning and has been up to, we invite you to continue reading...

Updates - last week

- Internal Policy

The [Bridges Project retreat](#) took place from 7-9 March at the European University Institute in Florence. The retreat brought together policy-makers, politicians and academics from around Europe to explore the dynamics that shape collective sentiment and action. Topics included how state institutions can shape and frame a collective; the dynamics of autonomy and conformity; the future of digital revolution; the inherently fragile nature of collective states, and the role of religion in secular and modern collectives.

Loïca attended a meeting of EPAM (the European NGO Platform on Asylum and Migration) with the European Asylum Support Office’s (EASO) new Executive Director José Carreira who is willing to further develop the collaboration of EASO with civil society

OSEPI, OSJI and partners published a [legal review](#) of the proposed EU directive on Counter-Terrorism. The Parliament and Council will publish their drafts this week after which we will continue to advocate key revisions to the directive.

- External Policy

From Tuesday 8 March to Wednesday 9 March Srdjan organized a visit of our colleagues from the MENASWA program and the Arab Regional Office led by Anthony Richter and Ammar Abu Zayyad. The visit included bilateral meetings with OSF grantees and partners, as well as a round table discussion on “EU policy towards Israeli settlements”. Participants included: the European Middle East Project, Broederlijk Delen, ACT Alliance, CIDSE, representatives from the European Parliament and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Last week, OSEPI’s external policy team submitted its written contribution to the consultation process launched by the EEAS on the forthcoming EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy. The input builds on the main conclusions and recommendations that emerged from the expert discussion on human rights in EU external action co-hosted by OSEPI and the European

Union Institute for Strategic Studies on 25-26 January. OSEPI's contribution calls on the EU and its member states to end the false dichotomy between 'values and interests' and argues that universal human rights constitute a building block of any policy aimed at supporting sustainable security, prosperity and stability in Europe and beyond. All information and submissions to the global strategy will be available [here](#).

Together with partners we facilitated a hearing in the LIBE committee with the Inter-Disciplinary Group of Experts (GIEI) of the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights focused on the disappearance of 43 students in Ayotzinapa Mexico in September 2014. The GIEI presented the findings and recommendations from their first report, the challenges they currently face and the work towards their second report which will be published in the next months.

- **Organisational activities**

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming Loïca Fauchard, who joined us as advocacy assistant on EU migration and asylum policies. She will work with our internal policy team on migration policy (in close collaboration with our external policy team) and she will help bridge the gap between Costanza's departure and replacement.

Marta and Bram attended the AfRO retreat in Dakar where strategic priorities for AfRO were discussed and identified. Neil joined the European Advisory Board meeting in Barcelona.

Upcoming Events

On Monday 14 March Marta and Bram are hosting a meeting on the electoral process in DRC. Participants attending this meeting include 5 partners from the DRC, the Great Lakes advocacy group and some of EurAc's Belgian members.


On Tuesday 15 March the European Parliament intergroups ARDI (anti-racism and diversity) and LGBTI have organised a joint seminar on how to communicate with homophobic and xenophobic populists. OSEPI is contributing the trainer for this event.

Together with Chatham House and the International Partnership for Human Rights, Srdjan has been involved in the organization of the launch of a new research paper by Annette Bohr "Turkmenistan: Power, Politics and Petro-Authoritarianism." The event is hosted by MEPs Heidi Hautala and Ana Gomes and will take place on 16 March.

Srdjan has made arrangements for a private viewing of Sonia Kennebeck's drone warfare documentary "National bird" (executive produced by Errol Morris and Wim Wenders) on Friday 18 March.

Media Update

Our top tweet since January this year is an event organized by Iskra in collaboration with the International Partnership for Human Rights:

	Tweets	Top Tweets	Tweets and replies	Promoted	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate
					4,770	31	0.6%
OSF EU Policy @osfEUpolicy · Jan 6 Brussels event: Justice Behind Bars - The Persecution of Civil Society in #Azerbaijan osf.to/1PLm4tk RSVP before 15/01 @IPHR							

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

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