

democrats

UITGAVE VAN HET BUREAU INTERNATIONAAL D66

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Introduction new intern

From January until May 2012 Anouk Keune will be the new intern at the International Bureau. A short introduction:

As of this January I've started working as an intern at the International Bureau as part of my Master at the Radboud University in Nijmegen. During my time studying history I've become fascinated with Dutch politics in an international perspective. I therefore followed some courses in political history and decided to enroll in the Politics and Parliament Masters program last September. During this Master I will be specializing in parliamentary history and the multiple political systems the world has to offer. Another fascination of mine is the Dutch Golden Age in which I hope to get my Master's degree this month. In my coming months at the International Office my main task will be to help organize a ELDR conference which will be held in Maastricht this spring. I'm looking forward to making this conference, and all the other task that will cross my path, a great success!

The time to act is now

By Floris Kreiken, JD Project Manager 'Tadamun with Tunis'

The West has looked towards the Arab spring as new hope in a region often forgotten. From

ELDR Congress

On the 13th and 14th of april D66- in cooperation with ELDR and the D66 management association- will organize a conference

for liberal politicians from Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The main goal of the conference is to get to know your neighbors and to learn from each other. During this two day conference there will be presentations on party identity and history, speed-dating, an ELDR training for local politicians and fringe meetings on policy issues that we find in cross-border regions, but also across countries.

For more information please contact Anouk Keune at a.keune@d66.nl



Presentation "A liberal roadmap for energy transition"

At the ELDR congress in Palermo D66 presented the magazine "A liberal roadmap for energy transition".

The joint D66-Centerpartiet-Liberal Democrats project, that started at the beginning of 2011 in Linköping, was followed by an extensive research phase and Round Table meeting in Amsterdam. Renowned experts from the UK, Sweden, Netherlands and Brussels share their vision for a Europe that runs on clean and renewable energy. [Click here](#) for the publication.

It is our great pleasure that the "Energy transition" theme has been chosen to be the leading theme for ELDR in 2012.

ELF seminar on "How to make politics outside the capital"

By Jorrit de Boer

On October 17 Elf, with the support of



January 28th to February 1st the Jonge Democraten, in cooperation IDI, send a small fact finding mission to Tunisia to establish contact with liberal organisations and explore the possibility of a capacity building and exchange seminar.

We found that liberal organizations face difficult times in the region. As the secular dictator Zinedine El Abidine Ben Ali banned all expressions of faith, the current debate centres on religion. Liberal organizations are unfortunately framed as being 'anti-Islam,' which puts them at a disadvantage compared to the better organized Islamic parties. Furthermore they lack the grounding in society that Islamic parties have, especially outside the big cities. We heard stories of intimidation, and of how minorities feared that their position in society would come under pressure.

It is promising however to see that many political organisations are coming together to form a stronger parliamentary block that aims to restore the economy and protect human rights and minorities. During our mission we spoke to diverse liberal organisations, both political and non-political, and we certainly see possibilities for follow-up and increased contacts between (social-) liberals in Tunisia and the Netherlands.

As we expect a new constitution in Tunisia and new elections somewhere after summer, the time to increase our engagement and to act is now.

Calendar

7 March: Symposium "Cross-border sustainable entrepreneurship", The Hague

29-31 March: Liberal International Executive Committee, Barcelona, Spain

13-14 April: ELDR Conference for liberal parties from the Germany-Benelux region, Maastricht

21 April: D66 Party Congress

11-12 May: ELDR spring council meeting, Yerevan, Armenia

Colophon Democrats

The International Newsletter "Democrats" is published by the foundation International Democratic Initiative (IDI) and the D66 International Bureau. This newsletter was composed by Maartje Jansen with contributions of Anouk Keune, Jorrit de Boer, Floris Kreiken and Nitin Sood.

For more information on our international activities and blogs about monitoring liberals in Europe go to www.d66.nl/internationaal and www.d66blog.nl/internationaal

SILBA and Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (Turkey), organised a seminar about 'How to make politics outside the capital' which was held in Istanbul. The goal of this seminar was focusing on the challenges of identifying liberals outside the capital. Hedser Kok and Jorrit de Boer were there on behalf of IDI.

In 4 days, the seminar learned us that there are differences between campaigning in regions, rural areas and big cities. How easy it can be to reach target-groups in big cities, how difficult it can be in rural areas due to weather conditions, no good access to infrastructure and no access to internet etc. It may sound strange that in those regions the best method still remains calling, visiting, sending cards, letters and make structural appointments in pubs (instead of using social media). Also a difference in strategic communications between regions and cities is, that in regions strategy should claim at first what they political achieved and later explain what new goals are. In big cities, you see an opposite strategy of first explaining the goals and later on claiming the achievements. A logic explanation for this kind of opposite strategy is based on that in big cities you will find more high-density (young) population who are more critical and inquisitive; they want to know in advance, what they are voting! Despite the differences, the main message for successfully campaigning remains; 'be creative and think radical!' in order to win voters!

Young Democrats visit Croatia during election weekend

By Nitin Sood, International Officer JD Leiden Haaglanden

Jonge-Democraten Leiden-Haaglanden (JD) and Mladi Hrvatska Narodna Stranka (MHNS) organized a political training in Zagreb from 1 until 5 december 2011.

This summer the European Commission concluded that the candidate-country Croatia is prepared to join the European Union in 2013, a good time to create stronger correspondence with Mladi Hrvatska Narodna Stranka, which is at the moment the strongest liberal-oriented youth political party in Croatia .

In order to support the liberal movement in Croatia, Jonge Democraten Leiden-Haaglanden organized a training course in Zagreb where members from both parties shared best practices and learnt from the mistakes and successes of each other. The reason for scheduling the training during election weekend is to not only support the party's campaigning, but also to promote and strengthen liberalism among those who are not politically active.

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Furthermore due to the elections, JD-members had the unique opportunity to learn about Croatian politics in general. Topics that were discussed included electoral laws, the benefits and disadvantages of closed party systems and quota systems among others.

On 22 January 2012 the Croats again had to cast their vote, this time in a referendum on EU accession. A 67% majority of Croats taking part voted in favour of EU membership. This means that Croatia is set to become the 28th member state of the EU on 1 July 2013.

In December D66 published a magazine on "The rule of law: fundamental rights and shared values in Southeast Europe". [Click here](#) for more information.



Deze nieuwsbrief is gemaakt en verzonden met de nieuwsbriefmanager van PDC Informatie Architectuur.

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