

# democrats

## Turkey Votes & New Website



'Turkey Votes' 12 June Turkish Election night in Amsterdam

June 12th the International Democratic Initiative together with the Turkey Institute, Alfred Mozer foundation, Pera, BKB and the GroenLinks scientific bureau organises a Turkish Election Night.

In the Sugarfactory in Amsterdam we will follow news and results coming in from Turkey, discuss issues such as the new constitution, minorities, freedom of speech and the meaning of the election results for the European Union. The evening is moderated by Lily Sprangers, director of the Turkey Institute. Other speakers are Marietje Schaake (MEP D66), Han ten Broeke (MP VVD), Mariko Peters (MP GroenLinks, tbc) and Kutsal Yesilkagit from Utrecht University.

There will be a live connection with the Consulate General in Istanbul where Joost Lagendijk from Sabanci University and a group of young D66 members are assembled to give a first response to the election results.

Admission is €5,- and apart from the great programme it includes Turkish snacks.

Tickets can be reserved prior to 12 June via the Turkey Institute – kindly check the website [www.d66.nl/internationaal](http://www.d66.nl/internationaal) for more information.

**Location:** Sugar Factory, Lijnbaansgracht 238 in Amsterdam

**Date:** 12 June 2011

**Time:** doors open at 19:00, the programme starts at 19:30 and will end around 22:30.

[New D66 International Website](http://www.d66.nl/internationaal)

## 'Algorithms for Opposing Gender'



*By Marianne Spangenberg-Carlier, Vice-President of D66 Women/Men/Human Rights thematic chapter*

YABLOKO is the oldest democratic party in Russia. One important issue at hand during the conference concerned worries that because of the low birthrate of Russian women, abortion might become illegal (now allowed within 12 weeks) or not covered by the health insurance. Another issue brought to attention by Yabloko, is the concern of so-called "soldier-mothers" about the situation of young conscripts (one year army duty is obliged) – improvement is urgent.

Turkish MP Nursuna Memecan (AKP) mentioned recent changes made to improve the position of women. In 2003 e.g. female courts were set up to protect women's rights in the family sphere and a labor law was passed to ensure equal pay. To stimulate female entrepreneurship a tax exemption was granted to selling home-made goods. German MP Marina Schuster (FDP) mentioned the current debate in Germany about quota for more equal representation in political parties. In my presentation, I focused on the economic and financial independence of women in the Netherlands. Up to 1957 women had to leave their jobs when they married. Nowadays more Dutch women work than almost anywhere in Europe (71.5 %, however 75% of them work part-time).

*Similarities...*

There is a pay-gap between men and women in similar jobs (in Europe 17-25%; in Russia up to 40%) and in job-level. It is difficult to combine work and care due to waiting-lists for child-care facilities, inflexibility of the workplace and

Mid-April the [new website](#) of the D66 International Bureau and the International Democratic Initiative foundation was launched.

At this website you can find information on IDI projects, European Liberals (ELDR), Liberal International, D66 politicians active in the international field, reports of past activities and most important an agenda of upcoming activities.

Furthermore, there is a special 'corner' for our European correspondents.

Language is mixed Dutch and English. If you want to announce an event or write a blog on international developments please contact the International Bureau.

cultural barriers. Forced marriages are also a matter of concern in various countries in the EU and Russia.

*But also differences....*

MEP Kristina Ojuland (Estonian Reform Party) put forward that in Estonia the unemployment rate of men is higher than that of women (17% versus 11%). Women work full-time and get 18 months of full pay after childbirth. However, in Russia women often go back to work as soon as possible, as they are afraid to lose their jobs. Sometimes they are offered financial incentives to quit their job. Domestic violence against women is a problem (about 14000 are killed each year). At the same time there are worries about the high suicide rate of young jobless men! It was felt that women can be activated to rally around specific issues. For example in St.Petersburg women demanded a 30% quota for political institutions.

All participants felt that it is important to have a judicial culture that is positive towards equality and non-discrimination of women. The laws are mostly in place, the bottleneck is in their implementation and application.

The conference was concluded by two recommendations: Women should claim the right to equal pay and jobs at higher levels (and to speed up the process temporary quota might be necessary). Furthermore they have to claim a role in economic and political life, not to be regarded solely as "sister, wife and mother".

## ELDR Congress



Each year liberals from all over Europe (56 member parties) come together for the ELDR Congress. This year the Congress takes place from **23-25 November in Palermo, Sicily** (Italy). The theme of the congress is "Refining the EU Budget, reforming Europe", kindly refer to the special [Focus Year website](#) for more information. At this congress, ELDR Vice-President Louise van der Laan is up for re-election.

If you are interested to learn more about your fellow liberals, if you want to experience an international congress or if you want to learn about other parties' views on the EU budget, you are very welcome to be a part of the D66 Delegation. D66 is not able to offer any compensation for travel or accommodation.

## LI Congress



Once every 18 months the Liberal International congress takes place. From **16-19 June** the congress will be hosted by the Liberal Party of the **Philippines in Manila** in cooperation with the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats. For more information please go to the [Liberal International website](#).

At these congresses liberal parties from all over the world discuss civil liberties, human rights and political developments in their respective countries. This congress is dedicated to "Human Rights and Trade". D66 has prepared a number of resolutions on e.g. media freedom in Morocco, sustainable fishery, GLBT rights are human rights, biodiversity and reforming the UN Human Rights Council. In the next newsletter you will find more information on which resolutions have

Fortunately participation in the congress is free and catering and meals are included.

Please contact the International Bureau if you require further information or if you want to register for the ELDR Congress.

## NIMD



*By Wouter Dol,  
Programme  
Manager NIMD*

### Strengthening the functioning of parties in Mali

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD) recently organised a two-day workshop for all registered political parties in Bamako, Mali. The workshop focused on improving party's capacity to develop realistic election manifestos. In order to support issue-based politics instead of a personality-driven contest for the upcoming 2012 elections, the NIMD programme aims to strengthen political party organisations and their skills, thereby recognising the essential role of parties for a democratic society. The workshop consisted of presentations on the importance of having a solid party programme or manifesto, and offered several lessons in this regard from other countries, including the Netherlands and D66.

As part of the workshop, Sven-åke Hulleman, staff member of the Mr. Hans van Mierlo foundation (D66 scientific bureau) presented experiences and lessons from the process behind the development of an election programme. Even though the contexts are completely different, the basic steps, tips and potential pitfalls are applicable worldwide. The key message was to first identify a party's specific identity and key principles, and on this basis come to a position on a certain theme, with a subsequent refinement into a realistic election promise that resonates with the targeted electorate. For many attending parties it was an eye-opener that the ideas and visions of a party will outlive any party leader or politician. It also confirmed the idea that the key of being a party is to remain true to the original principles and to present honest and realistic policy proposals to voters according to these principles.

The second day was a practical exercise in how to actually develop a draft programme with realistic policy pledges for one particular theme to be chosen by the parties. The most pressing issue seemed to be youth unemployment, and several parties deliberated over how best to tackle this difficult issue in their election message and how to link it to their core identity.

been adopted. The adopted resolutions will also be published on the [D66 International website](#).

## Calendar

*11 May:* D66 USA hosts Stientje van Veldhoven, New York

*13-15 May:* Visit of D66 The Hague local chapter to Det Radikale Venstre Copenhagen local chapter

*20-21 May:* ELDR Council and ELF Seminar "The next financial framework: the EU goes digital", Dresden, Germany

*27 May:* "Greenifying energy policies" ELDR expert round table, Nemo Science Centre, Amsterdam

*28 May:* D66 party congress with fringe meetings on e.g. "Liberals in North Africa" and "A comparative analysis of different election systems" in Utrecht

*12 June:* Turkey Votes, election night in the Sugar Factory, Amsterdam

*16-19 June:* Liberal International Congress, Manila, Philippines

*7-9 September:* Summer Seminar "Liberal principles compared", The Netherlands

*4 November:* Liberal Values seminar, The Netherlands

*23-25 November:* ELDR Congress, Palermo, Italy

### Colofon 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 Wouter Dol and Marianne Spangenberg-Carlier.

**For more information on our international activities and blogs about monitoring liberals in Europe go to [www.d66.nl/internationaal](http://www.d66.nl/internationaal) and [www.d66blog.nl/internationaal](http://www.d66blog.nl/internationaal)**

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It forced them to think creatively on how to 'claim' certain topics and how to develop concrete policies that are in fact attainable in some four years time.

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The workshop was part of a broader project that supports Malian parties in policy analysis and development skills, while the NIMD supported programme also offers further follow-up support to assist parties in the development of their official election manifestos. The project will publicise and distribute these official visions and ideas to the general public in order for voters to be better informed and to enable a fair comparison between the different parties.

*NIMD works to strengthen political parties and democratic systems in developing or young democracies. It is governed by the seven Dutch political parties that founded it, including D66, and currently operates democratisation programmes in 16 partner countries worldwide. You can visit [www.nimd.org](http://www.nimd.org) for more information.*



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

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