

democrats

UITGAVE VAN HET INTERNATIONAAL SECRETARIAAT D66

www.d66.nl/internationaal

- A new board member of the IDI Foundation: Ivo Thijssen
- IDI Libseen participation 2010
- Presentation of IDEE "Europe: Identity and Integration"
- Municipal elections create international opportunities, by Onno van Veldhuizen
- NIMD facilitates nascent political dialogue in Uganda
- Calendar and D66 International Afternoon
- ELDR Leaders Meeting, by Lousewies van der Laan
- Colofon

New IDI Board Member

Democrats,
Welcome to the International Democratic Initiative Foundation! I am proud to announce that I was elected board member of IDI at the 90th D66 congress on 7 November 2009.



Over the past seven years, it has always been a great pleasure to dedicate my time for both Jonge Democraten and D66 to a large number of European and international campaigns, congresses and projects. 2009 was a special year for me. Not only was it a privilege to be one of the top candidates for the European Parliament on behalf of D66, the campaign was also a wonderful experience. Nothing beats the excitement of campaigning!

Unfortunately, the European campaign has come to an end, nonetheless I am still energized and ambitious for D66. Therefore I look forward to helping build a social-liberal society outside the (current) European Union with IDI. My primary focus will be helping liberal parties from the Balkans champion individual freedoms.

I will always try to include youth participation, a prerequisite for a sustainable democracy in my opinion, emancipation and entrepreneurship in my work for IDI as these topics are close to my heart. Moreover, I hope to increase IDI's political activism and visibility inside D66. You'll hear

IDI - LIBSEEN participation 2010

The International Democratic Initiative Foundation has entered a close cooperation with the Liberal Network for South-East Europe (LIBSEEN). IDI wholeheartedly supports liberal cooperation in this region of Europe. Liberal parties in the Balkans have an extra important role in championing individual freedoms. In October 2010 LIBSEEN organizes a Liberal Leaders meeting in Osijek, Croatia. Leaders from liberal parties in e.g. Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo will come together to officially establish LIBSEEN. This event is funded by IDI and the Matra-programme of the Dutch Foreign Ministry. Furthermore LIBSEEN and IDI are exploring ways to stimulate liberalism in Turkey jointly.

The LIBSEEN network was founded in 2008 in Skopje, Macedonia as an initiative to gather liberal political parties in the region and contribute to the development of the region by implementing liberal policies in the political systems of these countries. The network plans to work on solving the social, political and ecological problems of the region. An important goal is to develop a multinational dialogue, an interreligious dialogue and respect for human rights. All this has been a great burden for the region for centuries and cause of many conflicts. One of the main goals of the network is EU membership of all countries in this region which would mean a final integration of Europe. For more information kindly refer to www.libseen.org

from IDI, that's a promise!

Kind regards,
Ivo Thijssen

Presentation IDEE "Europe: Identity and Integration"



IDEE #6 of 2009 *Europe: Identity and Integration* was presented on 12 January in Brussels. A copy of this special IDEE was offered by D66 MEP Sophie in 't Veld to Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the ALDE group.

Sophie in 't Veld explained that IDEE generates ideas within D66, this edition of IDEE has assembled ideas on identity and integration from throughout Europe. With this publication D66 hopes to incite a line of thought about European integration and identity. In 't Veld puts forward that in a reunited Europe all states together have to work on a new *mémoire collective*. The consensus version of European history that we, in Western Europe, have developed over the past 50 years is not the history of some of the newer member states. Our common history is not something to be considered as *acquis communautaire*, therefore Sophie in 't Veld pleads for a European dialogue about our common history.

In a globalizing world, in which more and more people proclaim a need for identity, the theme is provocative and difficult says Guy Verhofstadt. How do we fill in this need for identity? Some offer a one-dimensional approach, based on religion or descent. By doing this, you reduce identity to just one element while identity is multi-dimensional by definition. Identity is a complex matter and we should let people determine their identity for themselves. We as liberals must oppose those who use identity as a surrogate for nationalism, this goes together with our vigilance for those who interpret identity one-sided.

Municipal elections create international opportunities

By Onno van Veldhuizen

Recent research showed that 77% of Dutch municipalities has international activities, with a great deal of enthusiasm. Nevertheless only 20 % had a international paragraph in the council and board programmes (raads en collegeprogramma's) after the municipal elections of four years ago. I call upon all Dutch (candidate-)councilors and aldermen to support including such an international paragraph after the March 3 elections.

'Going international' creates opportunities by broadening the horizon of the local authority and citizen alike. May I name just a few of these opportunities. Local authorities which partner with other cities when they lobby in Brussels are much more effective. Cooperating with a partner from another EU country is often even obliged when it comes to acquiring European support for projects .

Valuable lessons in many policy fields can be learned by exchanging experiences with a sister city or through participation in a network of cities. When a city has minorities coming from other parts in the world it may be fruitful to look into international aspects when problems arise. International activities strengthen the profile of a city. This will attract business and educational institutions. Helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals is another opportunity. By sharing knowledge with local authorities in developing countries and by supporting the aid initiatives taken by your own citizens you can help making this world a better place.

Links:

Appeal: [Een wereld aan kansen. Een internationale paragraaf in ieder collegeprogramma!](#)

Research: [Mondiaal op eigen schaal](#)

Onno van Veldhuizen is mayor of the Municipality of Hoorn and chairman of the Dutch delegation in the Committee of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

NIMD facilitates nascent political dialogue in Uganda

Uganda's antagonistic political parties have agreed for the first time to a process of inter-party dialogue ahead of the 2011 general elections. The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), which is co-founded by D66 and six other Dutch parliamentary parties, supports democratisation in young democracies worldwide and is facilitating this important process. NIMD Director for Africa, Jasper Veen (D66), commented that dialogue "is a crucial instrument in young democracies for decisions pertaining political reform. Without dialogue, political conflict can inhibit the chance for sustainable socio-economic development".

One of the key elements of success in getting the parties around the table has been the close involvement of Ghanaian politicians. Through this innovative exchange, Ghanaian political parties are providing their Ugandan counterparts guidance, lessons learned, and inspiration from their own established dialogue process and successful 2008 elections. This South-South cooperation has proved invaluable in the agreement by the six major parties in Uganda to sign a Memorandum of Understanding by the end of this month, formalising the inter-party dialogue process. This is a promising step towards political reform and a strengthened democracy for the people of Uganda.

For more information on this or other work of NIMD, you can contact Wouter Dol (D66 coordinator) at wouterdol@nimd.org

Calendar

6 March: International Afternoon D66, Utrecht, (see below)

12-13 March: ELDR Council and Seminar, Rome

7 May: Youth Unemployment Conference in cooperation with CDC, Open VLD, LYMEC and ELDR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

D66 International Afternoon

On 6 March IDI and the D66 International Secretariat of D66 organise an "International Afternoon". This meeting, from 14:00 - 17:00, will take place in Utrecht (Academiegebouw). The international work of D66 will be explained during this meeting, as this work is multi-faceted the programme is as well:

14:00 Opening by Robert Farla, International Secretary D66

14.05 MEP Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (to be confirmed) . Introduction into the international orientation of D66.

14.30 Workshops hosted by D66 thematic groups:

- 1: Europe
- 2: Development Cooperation
- 3: International Security and Defence

15.15 Workshops, Round II

16.05 Introduction into the work of ELDR and Liberal International

By ELDR Political Advisor Daniel Tanahatoo and LI Political Officer Mark Thiessen

16.15 Introduction into the (making of) the international chapter in D66 election programme 2011

by Bob van de Bos

Discussion and comments

17.00 Closure and reception

You are most welcome to participate in this meeting, kindly notify Maartje Jansen via idi@d66.nl if you wish to attend.

More information will soon be posted on www.d66.nl/internationaal

ELDR Leaders Meeting



ELDR Leaders Meeting 10-12-2009

By Lousewies van der Laan

ELDR Leaders and Ministers gathered on 10 December in Brussels to discuss the future policies of the European Union and its governing body the European Commission. The freshly nominated Commission will have 8 liberal Commissioners out of 27, making it the second strongest camp. Newly elected ELDR Vice-President Lousewies van der Laan of D66 impressed upon the new commissioners the urgent need for action now that the Lisbon Treaty has entered into force: "This decade of European navel-gazing must now end with determined action on climate change, economic reform and asserting Europe's role on the global stage." Besides the majority of the new liberal Commissioners, various (prime) ministers and attended the meeting. There was much praise for D66's impressive result in both the European elections and the recent polls. Alexander Pechtold's recent election as politician of the year also did not go unnoticed in the European arena.

Press release:

<http://www.eldr.eu/en/news/2009/12/new-eu-the-european-liberal-family-united-and-strong->

D66 members interested in attending the next ELDR Congress (Helsinki, Finland 13-15 October 2010) as part of the D66 delegation, can notify Maartje Jansen at the International Secretariat. Please note that costs of travel, accommodation and meals are not reimbursed by D66 or ELDR.

Colofon

The International Newsletter "Democrats" is published by the foundation Internationaal Democratisch Initiatief (IDI) of the International Secretariat of D66. This newsletter was composed by Maartje Jansen. With contributions from: Marieke van Doorn, Onno van Veldhuizen, Lousewies van der Laan and Wouter Dol.

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