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democrats

UITGAVE VAN HET INTERNATIONAAL SECRETARIAAT D66

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Democrats

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Column by International Secretary Gerben Jan Gerbrandy:

Europe is not the problem, Europe is the solution to many of our problems. That is one of the slogans D66 used during our European electoral campaign in May/June. Our main message was cristal clear: Europe? Yes! With this clear statement we were able to triple our European delegation. After years of solitary work, Sophie in 't Veld will be joined in the European political arena by Marietje Schaake and myself.



In an atmosphere of nationalism and a wrongful belief in de power of nation states, it was a privilege to go out and campaign with our pro-European message. It made our position strong. Everyone now knows that D66 is strongly in favour of more European integration. We were often in the center of the attention during debates. Under attack by other parties for our strong believe in European solutions. Our strong conviction that we should not look backwards but optimistically into the future. It gave D66 an image of optimism, of freshness, it gave us confidence. And victory.

For me personally, a new period in my life had started. As a member of the European

NIMD news



Ghana's DCSP: a home-grown democratic reform agenda

"The DCSP advances an authentic approach to democracy in Africa."

Words by Jean Mensa, Administrator of the Institute for Economic Affairs, Ghana

Background: *In October last year at a launch event in Accra, Ghana's political leadership presented their Democratic Consolidation Strategy Paper (DCSP) to the public. Supported by NIMD and the Accra-based Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA), the Paper offers both a comprehensive review of the state of democracy in Ghana and a roadmap on how to enhance its performance. IEA Administrator Jean Mensa explains how the DCSP is contributing to tangible political change.*

[Full coverage](#)

Jasper Veen, director of NIMD Africa and member of the board of D66's International Democratic Initiative, presented a closing

Parliament, I will have the opportunity to work on some of the priorities of D66: a stronger European democracy, a more sustainable society, and a transition to renewable energy. Wonderful to have such challenges ahead! And even better to have the opportunity to start participating in the most pro-European political group in European Parliament, the ALDE-group.

It also means that I have to step down as international secretary of D66. That is a pity, because I loved the work. But, D66 will remain active in the international field. With a brand new international officer, Maartje Jansen, and a successor as international secretary who will be announced shortly. And as a MEP I will be more than able to stay active in this field.

New International Officer: Maartje Jansen



Last May I started working for D66 as International Officer. At the Universities of Leiden and Stellenbosch I studied Political Science and History. Before joining the D66 International Secretariat I worked for over four years as a project manager for the International Criminal Law Network and World Legal Forum. In this capacity I organised and coordinated several international (criminal) law training sessions, lectures, debates and conferences in The Hague, the EU and the Middle East. While visiting the US as a guest of the State Department during the 2008 Presidential Elections I felt inspired to return to the world of Politics. And rightly so now that D66 follows the US Democrats' upswing. It is a pleasure to share in the ambitions here at D66 and I look forward to contribute to the international part of those ambitions. Gerben Jan Gerbrandy has been elected Member of the European Parliament during the elections last June. Together with Sophie in 't

speech at a gathering of African politicians from governing and opposition parties from all persuasions in Naivasha, Kenya 9-6-2009

Democracy is not only competition for power. Democracy is peaceful accommodation of conflict of interest.

And this requires dialogue:

We all know how difficult inter party dialogue is in a distrustful environment and you all have made significant strides in your respective countries in overcoming this.

That makes this such a unique gathering. Bringing opposition and governing parties from all over the African continent and with different persuasions together to discuss debate and learn from each other is not something that should be taken for granted. It is a unique platform in its nature and one of the few that exists in the world.

[Full coverage](#)

ELDR Congress 19-20 November Barcelona, Spain



This year's ELDR Party Congress will take place on **Thursday 19th and Friday 20th November 2009 in Barcelona, Catalonia. Convergència Democràtica**, our Catalan sister party, will be our kind host.

Following June's European elections, the Congress will be the first opportunity for ELDR's prime ministers, commissioners, party leaders and officials to come together in the presence of our newly elected MEPs and to debate key policy areas.

The theme of this year's Congress is *economic liberalism after the financial crisis* and will look not only at the liberal perspectives on and answers to the global financial crisis but also our wider economic values and beliefs. These issues will be explored through debates with key actors from the liberal political world and other sectors. The Congress programme will also include a number of fringe meetings that will focus on important topical issues as well as a seminar exploring how to establish strong political party branches at the local level.

Veld and Marietje Schaake he will represent D66 in the European Parliament as of 14 July. The new chair of IDI will be made known later this summer.

Last May, Maartje Jansen has started working as our new International Officer. Together with the IDI board she will coordinate IDI projects and manage relations with ELDR, Liberal International and likeminded parties and organisations. For queries or information requests regarding our international contacts and activities please do not hesitate to contact her at our International Secretariat.

International Democratic Initiative

The foundation International Democratic Initiative (IDI) is one of the pillars with which D66 shapes its involvement in democratisation and international cooperation. IDI maintains and develops relationships with like-minded political organisations in almost every country in the world. On the one hand, D66 provides practical assistance to likeminded political organisations. On the other IDI, through channelling new ideas and experiences, stimulates thinking about democracy and international cooperation within D66.

IDI projects are made possible thanks to financial support of the *Programma Maatschappelijke Transformatie Midden- en Oost Europa (Matra)* of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Board of the IDI Foundation consists of 3 members and has the International Secretary of D66 as its chairman. The Board is responsible for the foundation's policy-making and for the political support, which it provides. The projects themselves are organised by experienced volunteers and trainees. The IDI Board consists of:

Chair: Gerben Jan Gerbrandy
Treasurer: Menno Witteveen
Secretary: Jasper Veen

With over 500 delegates participating each year, the ELDR Congress is the number one event for European liberal democrats who want to exchange ideas, network and debate and adopt policies in the European context.

D66 members interested in attending this congress 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.

Agenda

- September Project Managers meeting IDI; date, time and venue will be duly communicated
- 17 October NCDO Debat Politiek 2015
- 29-31 October Liberal International Executive Meeting and Conference, Cairo, Egypt
- 7 November D66 Fall Conference, The Hague
- 7-16 November FLRY General Assembly and Seminar, Nederland
- 19-20 November ELDR Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- 7-18 December Copenhagen Climate Conference

De DerdeKamer 2015

Met communicatiemiddelen een slag slaan in de gezondheidszorg - Nieuwe energie de toekomst voor IS - Op innovatieve wijze de voedselcrisis te lijf

Een groep van 50 Nederlanders en 15 mensen uit ontwikkelingslanden gaat op zoek naar innovatieve oplossingen voor een betere internationale samenwerking.

Heb jij ideeën over de inzet van nieuwe technologieën voor ontwikkelingssamenwerking? Wil jij je kennis vergroten op gebied van internationale samenwerking, een nieuw netwerk opbouwen en jouw ideeën overbrengen aan een groter publiek? De Derde Kamer 2015 is op zoek naar ambitieuze, creatieve denkers en doeners met politieke interesse.

www.dederdekamer2015.nl

Waarom De Derde Kamer 2015? Doelen van De Derde Kamer 2015 zijn het vergroten van kennis van deelnemers op het terrein van internationale samenwerking, het betrekken en informeren van het Nederlandse publiek en politiek bij internationale samenwerking, en het geven van een stem aan ontwikkelingslanden in de discussie over internationale samenwerking.

Wat doet De Derde Kamer 2015? De Derde Kamer 2015 bedenkt concrete ideeën voor betere internationale samenwerking en maakt deze zichtbaar aan het Nederlandse publiek en de politiek. 50 Nederlandse deelnemers en 15 niet-Nederlandse deskundigen (vanuit het project VoiceOver2015) werken gedurende een jaar in groepen aan aanbevelingen gericht op een toekomst waarin de verwezenlijking van de millenniumdoelen een stap dichterbij komt.

Nieuwe technologieën voor ontwikkelingssamenwerking. Het komende zittingsjaar staat in het teken van 'de mogelijkheden van nieuwe technologieën voor ontwikkelingssamenwerking'. Bijvoorbeeld op het terrein van voedselproductie, energie & klimaat en de kansen van communicatietechnologie.

Aanmelden kan tot en met 16 augustus:
www.dederdekamer2015.nl

Jonge Democraten Utrecht welcomes Mladi Liberali Mostar



The collapse of the former Yugoslavia did not result in a process of peaceful transition to democracy and the establishment of several, liberal European countries. As we all know, the opposite happened; the Balkan was for years a theatre for war and bloodshed. It looks like this development has been brought to a halt. Step by step the transition to a sustainable peace is being made. Democracy and rule of law are key components in this respect. History has proved that the development of a stable democratic state, subject to the rule of law, is not realised overnight. Instead it takes generations to develop such a state and for its institutions to take root. This serves to say that although current political leaders are responsible for a peaceful future for the Balkan region, the youth is key since young leaders will be responsible for future choices between liberalism and nationalism, tolerance or hostility, freedom or repression, war or peace.

[Full coverage](#)

Young Dutch Filmmakers in "Europe up close"



On 14 May young Dutch film makers presented short films on the importance of Europe in our everyday life in a film festival entitled "Europe up close". The event was held in the new state of the art public library in the harbour of Amsterdam. Their short films discuss a wide range of topics such as the reunification of Europe and breaking down borders, freedom, cultural diversity, consumer protection and economic opportunities to mention a few examples. A jury, composed of former European Commission official Nico Wegter and programmer of the Netherlands Film festival Herman de Wit, awarded a short film on multilingualism with the festival's main prize, whereas the audience preferred a film with inner city school children. Sophie in 't Veld MEP and D66 party leader Alexander Pechtold MP were present to comment on the artists' creativity and debated with the audience.

The video's can be viewed here:
http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=9160BB22EC131282

This event took place in the framework of the ELDR

Euroscepticism: a threat to Dutch identity

Does European cooperation constitute a threat to Dutch identity? This issue was a central topic of the last election-campaign. The outspoken Euro-sceptic parties were of the opinion that it endangers the 'typical Dutch', and parties such as the PvdA, CDA and VVD felt tempted to follow this line of thought. But the question is, is this a sound analysis? If we can speak of a loss of Dutch identity, this seems to be the result of domestic politics rather than of Europe.



Let's take 'the Dutch identity' into consideration; what does this so-called identity encompass? Last year, Princess Maxima argued that although this 'identity' is not static, there are certain features which can be described as typical Dutch.

[Full coverage](#)

Colofon Democrats

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.

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