

INVITATION

PRESENTATION POLICY PAPER

What Can the European Union Do in Syria?

As a follow-up to the closed workshop “The responsibility to protect in Syria – What can the European Union do?” organised by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung European Union and Dutch peace organisation IKV Pax Christi on 5th of December 2012, both organisations will present a joint policy paper focussing on human security and humanitarian aid. With Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the EEAS and the European Commission, we want to look at what has happened in the last four months, whether our recommendations (http://www.boell.eu/downloads/Policy_Recommendations_Workshop_Syria%281%29.pdf) have been taken on board by EU policy and decision makers and what the current situation in Syria requires from EU policy and decision makers. The war in Syria has entered its third year and the death toll has reached 70,000. With more than one million registered refugees in the neighbouring countries and two to three million internally displaced persons, the human security and the humanitarian situation are close to catastrophic. In spite of the European Union’s commitment in the area of humanitarian aid and its acceptance of the Syrian National Coalition for Revolutionary and Opposition Forces as legitimate representatives of the Syrian people, the Member States remain divided over the role the EU should play. The voices for more robust measures e.g. a lifting of the arms embargo, are getting louder, even though the fears that this would lead to more deaths, greater radicalisation and more instability in the region are not unfounded. What exactly is it the European Union can and should do in Syria?

Date **Wednesday, 24 April 2013, 13.00 – 14.30**
(a sandwich lunch will be provided at 12.30)

Venue **SOFITEL BRUSSELS EUROPE**
Place Jourdan, 1
1040 BRUSSELS

Speakers **Haid Haid**, Programme Manager Regional Office Middle East (Beirut),
Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung
Jan Jaap van Oosterzee, Advisor Policy and Public Affairs Middle East and
Caucasus, IKV Pax Christi

Discussants **Johannes Luchner**, Head of Unit ECHO B/4, European Commission
Judith Sargentini, Member of European Parliament (GREENS/EFA)
Marietje Schaake, Member of European Parliament (ALDE)
Beatriz Salvador-Garcia, European External Action Service, Desk Syria tbc

Moderator **Annette Riedel**, Brussels Correspondent Deutschlandradio

No admittance without confirmed registration. E-Mail registration only. Please send the attached reply form to: Marianne.Ebertowski@eu.boell.org

The meeting is held under Chatham House Rule.

Conference language English – no translation.