



Exporting Repression: the spread of human rights violations in the former Soviet Union and how institutions respond

DATE: Thursday 26 May 2016

TIME: 1.00pm—2.30pm (light lunch available from 12.30pm)

VENUE: European Endowment for Democracy, Avenue des Gaulois 29, 1040-Brussels, Belgium

Speakers:

- **Heidi Hautala MEP, Delegation to the EU-Armenia and EU-Azerbaijan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and the EU-Georgia Parliamentary Association Committee; Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance**
- **Fernando Andresen Guimarães, Acting Director for Europe East, EEAS**
- **Tinatín Tsertsvadze, International Advocacy Manager, International Partnership for Human Rights**
- **Kate Levine, Lawyer, European Human Rights Advocacy Centre (EHRAC)**
- **Adam Hug, Policy Director, Foreign Policy Centre**

Chair:

- **Richard Howitt MEP, Socialist & Democrat Group Human Rights Spokesperson**

The panel discussion, held in partnership with the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) and the Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI), will examine the role the EU can play in responding to the development of repressive laws and practices across the former Soviet Union including: 'foreign agents' laws and other restrictions on NGO activities, laws restricting LGBTI rights, security sector cooperation, limits on freedom of assembly and crackdowns on media and internet freedom.

The panel discussion will examine not only the role played by regional institutions such as the CIS, Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in the promotion of such laws, but the ways in which repressive governments in the former Soviet Union work to influence how the European Union and international institutions such as the Council of Europe, OSCE, the UN, CIS, INTERPOL, EITI and international financial institutions respond to human rights abuses in the post-Soviet space.

The discussion will be based on the findings of two FPC reports in this Exporting Repression series: [*Institutionally blind? International organisations and human rights abuses in the former Soviet Union*](#) and the forthcoming publication *Sharing worst practice: How countries and institutions in the former Soviet Union help create legal tools of repression*. Free copies of these publications will be available at this event.

Please make sure you RSVP here <http://goo.gl/forms/KSWOjGK1Hz>

