



e-UPDATE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Turkey in Europe: The economic case for Turkish membership of the European Union **Launch and discussion event**

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Date: Wednesday 5 November, 6.00-7.30pm
Venue: Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House, Victoria Embankment, London SW1A 2LW

Speakers:

Gareth Thomas MP, Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs (tbc)

Peter Luff MP, Chairman, Business and Enterprise Select Committee

John Peet, Europe Editor, The Economist

Roland Rudd, Chairman, Business for New Europe


Serra Kaleli, First Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in London

Chair: Bob Laxton MP, Chair, All-Party British-Turkish Parliamentary Group

About the event:

The Foreign Policy Centre, in partnership with Business for New Europe, is launching a new pamphlet that will set out a clear economic and business case for Turkish membership of the European Union. The event is timed to coincide with the release of the EU's report on progress accession and will provide an opportunity to debate Turkey's progress towards accession, the challenges it still faces and the important economic and political linkages Turkey and the EU share.

The pamphlet, edited by Adam Hug at the Foreign Policy Centre, contains contributions from: Rt Hon David Miliband MP, Rt Hon William Hague MP, Commissioner Olli Rehn, Roland Rudd (Chairman, Business for New Europe) Dr Mehmet Ugur (University of Greenwich), Prof Refik Erzan (Bogazici University), Dr Bahadır Kaleagasi (TUSIAD, the Turkish business association), Sir Julian Horn Smith, (former Deputy CEO, Vodaphone) and Dr Gareth Winrow (formerly of Istanbul Bilgi University).

 **RSVP** If you would like to attend the event, and/or would like more information about the pamphlet, please send an email with 'Turkey' in the subject line to: events@fpc.org.uk

CONTINUED...

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

The Thin Blue Line: How Humanitarianism Went to War by Conor Foley **Launch & discussion event**

Date: Thursday 6 November, 6.00-8.00pm
Venue: Thatcher Room, Portcullis House, Victoria Embankment, London SW1A 2LW

Speakers:

Conor Foley, Author, Journalist & Humanitarian Aid Worker
Rt Hon Dr Denis MacShane MP, former Minister for Europe
Oliver Kamm, Leader Writer, The Times (tbc)

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Chair: James Darcy, Director of Programmes, Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

About the event

At this Foreign Policy Centre and Verso Books event, humanitarian aid worker Conor Foley will outline the thesis of his new book, 'The Thin Blue Line: How Humanitarianism Went to War', and Rt Hon Dr Denis MacShane MP and Oliver Kamm of The Times (tbc) will present their responses to it.

The idea that we should 'do something' to help those suffering in far-off places is the main impulse driving those who care about human rights. Yet from Kosovo to Iraq, military interventions have gone disastrously wrong.

In his ground-breaking new book, Conor Foley explores how the doctrine of humanitarian intervention has been used to allow states to invade other nations in the name of human rights. Drawing on his own experience of working in over a dozen conflict and post-conflict zones, Foley shows how the growing influence of international law has been used to override the sovereignty of the poorest countries in the world.

 **RSVP** If you would like to attend, please send an email with 'Conor Foley' in the subject line to: events@fpc.org.uk


Going for Growth: Can Commodities Transform Development in Africa and China?

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About the event

The FPC and the Open University's International Development Centre, in partnership with Lovells, are hosting a one-day invitation-only conference on Friday 21 November which will explore the impact of commodities on development in Africa and China. The event will seek to illuminate the complex and intricate relationships that constitute the ever-evolving engagement between the People's Republic of China and the continent of Africa. Energy, minerals and agricultural commodities provide a unique and topical framework through which to explore emerging Africa-China relations.



 **For more information**, please send an email with 'China' in the subject line to: events@fpc.org.uk

CONTINUED...

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

Vulnerable groups in Iran: The experience of women, Kurds and Baha'is

The Foreign Policy Centre



Date: Tuesday 25 November, 6.15-7.45pm

Venue: Wilson Room, Portcullis House, Victoria Embankment, London SW1A 2LW

Speakers: TBC



About the event:

The Foreign Policy Centre is launching a new pamphlet on women's and minority rights in Iran. The pamphlet, written by Tahirih Danesh, Geoff Cameron and Barrie Boles, focuses on the legal mechanisms used to discriminate against women, Baha'is and Kurds, and examines common features of the problems faced by these groups. It looks at how Iran's treatment of minorities measures up to the international agreements it has signed and evaluates the Iranian government's compliance with its own constitution and legal safeguards. It also analyses what British and European policymakers can do to improve the treatment of women and minorities in Iran.



Further information about the pamphlet and the launch event will be available in due course. If you would like to attend the event, please send an email with 'Iran' in the subject line to: events@fpc.org.uk



Women and children first: Leadership and the HIV and AIDS crisis in Africa

Supported by



About the project:

The Foreign Policy Centre, with the support of Abbott UK, has embarked on a series of four invitation-only roundtable discussions to identify concrete and practical ways in which the lives of African women and girls affected by HIV/AIDS can be transformed. The areas of discussion and analysis will focus on building sustainable healthcare systems, the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and child survival, stigma and discrimination, as well as intellectual property and universal access to medicines. The first roundtable was held in June and the second in October. The remaining two will be held in November and January.



For further information about this project, or if you would like to receive a copy of the final report when it is published in the spring of 2009, please send an email with 'HIV' in the subject line to Josephine Osikena at: events@fpc.org.uk

CONTINUED...

RECENT EVENTS



The Foreign Policy Centre at the 2008 Party Conferences

The FPC hosted very successful fringe programmes at each of the three Party Conferences this autumn. Below follow extracts from the DeHavilland summaries of selected FPC fringes. Full summaries of all our fringe events can be found on our website at: www.fpc.org.uk/events

The Foreign Policy Centre at the Liberal Democrat Party Conference

The credit crunch: Can Europe make a difference?

Speakers:

Colin Breed MP, member of the Liberal Democrat Shadow Treasury team

Sharon Bowles MEP, member of the EU Economic & Monetary Affairs Committee

Prof Richard Werner, Chair of International Banking, University of Southampton

Chair: Adam Hug, Policy Director, FPC

Tuesday 16 September, 6.15pm to 7.30pm
Connaught Hotel - Connaught Two

Supported by



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Summary

International financial authorities including the Bank of England had been 'far more sanguine' about the threat of a banking crisis than they had cause to be, Colin Breed MP claimed. In his opening remarks, Mr Breed claimed that Treasury Select Committee members felt that the FSA as well as the Bank of England, were too complacent about the threats to the financial sector. Turning to the collapse of Northern Rock, Mr Breed argued that the FSA had not maintained clear oversight in key areas, most notably in tracking the bank's liquidity. He called for clarity as to what was regulated and how and warned that current regulatory systems were too bureaucratic to respond to the fast pace of change in modern banking, adding that the FSA needed to do more if it was to enjoy credibility within the City.

Sharon Bowles MEP compared the current crisis to 'financial pollution', noting that it required an international response. She was critical of those who had designed new financial instruments, but added that some of the blame must also be placed on credit rating agencies, investors and the regulators. She also highlighted concerns about off-balance sheet accounting and called for greater transparency in the trading of over the counter products. Turning to possible responses, she explained that the EU was looking to tighten capital adequacy requirements for riskier instruments. Furthermore, she suggested that issuers of riskier products could be made to retain a portion of them on their own balance sheets. Greater transparency was also needed on the methodologies and assumptions of credit rating agencies. Ms Bowles noted that there was no professional body for these firms. On an EU-wide banking regulator, the MEP said that she would not support the creation of a new tier of bureaucracy, especially given the differing practices across member states. However, she would be willing to countenance such a body if it evolved out of the present Lamfalussy arrangements

Professor Werner argued that banking crises were the product of unproductive speculative lending. He described how central banks had once monitored this to prevent the formation of bubbles, but observed that this was no longer the case. The Bank of England currently has only one target - consumer price inflation. In the current situation, the Bank was moving to control inflation even though its actions could be detrimental to the wider needs of the economy, he suggested. Warning that the current crisis would hit the UK harder than the US due to Britain's exposure to the housing market and financial services, Professor Werner suggested that the Bank of England could restore liquidity in a simple manner by buying bad debts from the financial institutions, thus freeing them to lend once more. Professor Werner suggested that this move would result in a return of liquidity and not cost the taxpayer anything as the transactions were largely notional.

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Director
Stephen Twigg



The Foreign Policy Centre at the Labour Party Conference

Fuelling the Future: Tackling the Climate Change Challenge and Sustaining our Environment

Speakers: Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for the Environment; **Christopher Eckerberg**, Group Head of Public Affairs, Vattenfall; **Andrew Pendleton**, Head of Climate Change Programme, ippr; and **Geoffrey Lean**, Environment Editor, Independent on Sunday
Chair: Linda McAvan MEP

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Sunday 21 September, 12.45pm to 2.15pm
Radisson Hotel - Dickens/Thackery Rooms (secure zone)



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Summary

In the decades ahead, the successful individuals, businesses and nations would be those who had successfully moved to a low carbon way of life, Environment Secretary Hilary Benn argued. Opening the fringe, Mr Benn asserted that the international community had a good idea of the elements of the deal needed to tackle climate change: an international agreement with a range of binding agreements on the largest, richest countries. However, the truth was that the world would still face the consequences of the emissions already released, he said, stressing that the challenge now was to create an equitable framework upon which all nations reduced their emissions. A carbon market was also needed which created a price for carbon. He called for the greater development of cap and trade systems around the world, so that nations could benefit from one system which helped to pay for low emitting technologies. He also called for 'flowing funds' to aid adaptation. Leadership in Europe on climate change was also crucial, he said, noting that at Bali the 27 EU nations speaking with one voice was influential. The politics of climate change was also changing in America, he added, expressing hope that there would be a change in policy with a new President. Mr Benn asserted that the final challenge was to realise the opportunity that such environmental change would bring. He wondered why the US wasn't at the forefront of low carbon car production, adding that there were undoubtedly a large number of jobs to be found in such an economy.

Andrew Pendleton asserted that the majority of people were aware of the environmental aspects of climate change, and the inconvenient truth that anything from a 50 per cent upwards cut in emissions would not only require reductions in the developed world but also would also mean bargaining cuts in emissions from China, India and Brazil. This was the critical issue, he argued: the politics of how these cuts could be achieved. Since the Bali summit, the EU had failed to meet the self-set target which was leading the way on emission reductions, and there seemed to be no impetus to drive this forward. In the US, the challenge is whether the nation would join the EU in tackling emissions, or still wanted to see some form of promise from India and China before the US would enact policy at the national level, he added. Pondering whether these nations would take the lead, Mr Pendleton explained that whilst some developing nations were coming together and acting more progressively on climate change than some of their developed counterparts, essentially these nations were not bound by legislation to reduce emissions. At the moment, there was no movement towards cutting domestic emissions from nations such as China, India and Brazil, he added. With the global economy worsening around the globe, Mr Pendleton argued that nations should be discussing how to accelerate technology so the international environment can realise an efficient accord as soon as possible.

Geoffrey Lean declared that he was slightly more optimistic, arguing that India and China were doing a lot more than they were given credit for in reducing emissions. The real concern was the scramble for resources, he said, noting that a significant number of people felt that the answer to the energy crisis was coal. This set an appalling example to the world; in particular China and the US, adding that by building new coal stations the UK would lose its moral authority. The other solution the Government was going for was nuclear power, he said, which would take at least 15 years to realise. Mr Lean stated that the UK was therefore left with renewables, adding that Britain was well placed for this type of energy with the North Sea, and yet had the worst record in Europe for exploiting these natural resources. Energy efficiency could also buy the UK some time, he said, and praised the fuel assistance package recently announced by the Government. There wasn't enough money to finance both nuclear, renewables and coal though, he added.

Christopher Eckerberg argued that technology was definitely part of the solution in tackling climate change. Utility companies are a big part of the problem, but are also key to reducing emissions, he said. The biggest challenge as a large energy utility was greenhouse gas emissions. As a business, Vattenfall sets targets, such as reducing emissions by half by 2030. Companies like Vattenfall also need to base the debate on research, he noted, explaining that they had conducted a study looking in to where it was possible to reduce emissions and at what cost. The study had concluded that the company could afford to make cuts, adding that tackling climate change was affordable. It is also important for energy companies to explain to consumers how they can improve energy efficiency. He added that there was an onus on energy companies to invest in renewables and alternative sources of energy, explaining that Vattenfall had supported the opening of Sweden's third largest wind farm, and was also working in nuclear power in a number of nations. Mr Eckerberg declared that carbon capture and storage would be the most important technology going forward, and praised the UK Government for taking the lead on CCS projects on a large scale.

The Foreign Policy Centre at the Conservative Party Conference

Wealth creation: Paving a way out of poverty?

Speakers: **Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP**, Shadow International Development Minister; **Salvatore Gabola**, Manager of Global Stakeholder Relations, The Coca-Cola Company; **Alex Cobham**, Policy Manager, Christian Aid; **Paul Vallely**, Associate Editor, The Independent
Chair: **Stephen Twigg**, Director, FPC

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Tuesday 30 September, 5.45pm to 7.00pm
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Scherzo Room (secure zone)

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Summary

Removing trade barriers was the best way to address poverty in the developing world, International Development Minister Gillian Merron said. Opening the discussion, she explained that DFID had one mission which was the alleviation of world poverty and by 2012 the budget for this would have trebled. Detailing the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), she said that they were the closest the world came to having a joint statement on development and they provided the framework that would make it possible to "turn the corner" on extreme poverty. What people in the third world really wanted was jobs, healthcare and education and the way for this to happen was trade, she said. Eliminating world trade barriers would lift 300-500 million people out of poverty and the Government was increasing money for aid for trade by 50 per cent. In addition, economic partnership agreements (EPAs) could provide greater markets much more easily. It was important to build new markets, she said, stating that EBay would be developing a market for the sale of goods from the developing world to the west. She also detailed concerns about corruption and said that there had been progress in achieving transparency in areas including pharmaceuticals and construction. In the long term it was about giving the poorest the means to bring themselves out of poverty and this could be best done through trade, she declared.

William Asiko said that Africa was a long way from achieving the MDGs by 2015. The Government could not address the problems alone, he asserted. Mr Asiko said that the private sector could be an engine for growth. Corporations need to balance making profit while helping to alleviate poverty. He stressed that the relationship between the prosperity of a community and the prosperity of a business within that community was symbiotic. But he emphasised that it was important not to focus just on philanthropy. Coca-Cola had identified a business model called the manual distribution centre model as a way of helping alleviate poverty. This method of distributing goods helps to create entrepreneurs and gives people jobs. 2000 of these centres had been developed in East Africa and had contributed some £650 million to the economies and created 8000 jobs while still making profits for Coca Cola, he said. These centres were being expanded and they expected the number of jobs to double, he added.

Her Excellency Mrs Maajar began by saying that Africa was the only region in the world that was getting poorer. She emphasised the low life expectancy and deaths caused by curable diseases. This kind of life created a vicious cycle of bad health, unemployment and poor education, she said. The High Commissioner contended, however, that Africa was changing. There were fewer conflicts and many countries were now stable democracies, she added. Detailing the potential of Africa's natural resources, she said that China and India were now looking towards Africa for natural resources. On what needed to be done, Mrs Maajar called for transparent and accountable institutions to be created in Africa. It was also important for African Governments to take an interest in African natural resources because they could provide the funding needed for Africa to develop. Mrs Maajar hoped for cooperation between African countries that would prevent them from driving down prices through competition. A common code of conduct would guide the way multinationals did business in Africa and would prevent African countries from having to sell cheap to encourage investment, she asserted. Concluding, Mrs Maajar highlighted that Africa could not get out of poverty alone.

Claire Melamed of ActionAid agreed with the other panellists on the importance of economic growth in tackling poverty. She asserted, however, that it was important not to adopt a "growth triumphalism". It was important to recognise that not all kinds of growth were equally valuable, she argued. Thus it was essential to pay attention to how growth was happening, she said. Ms Melamed said that the growth of telecommunications in Africa had been dramatic and had transformed peoples lives in a positive way. Growth that made a difference tended to have a committed private sector that was backed up by a government that was committed to doing the right thing, she asserted. Moving on to "wealth creation" she contended that it was important to create wealth that delivered for poor people.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

No longer the odd man out? Will Gordon Brown bind Britain more closely to Europe?

by Dick Leonard

In his latest article for *The European Voice*, FPC Senior Research Associate Dick Leonard suggests that if any good comes out of the global financial crisis, it could be that Britain is bound more closely to the European Union.

[Download the article here](#)

Colombia goes up; Argentina goes down; Venezuela stands still

by Thiago de Aragao

In his latest article for the FPC website, FPC's Latin America Senior Research Associate Thiago de Aragao asserts that the release of Ingrid Betancourt in Colombia in July was Latin America's greatest political event for some time, both for symbolic and regional geo-political reasons.

[Download the article here](#)

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FPC research staff are available to provide comment on breaking international news and foreign policy issues. They are experienced media commentators, making frequent TV and radio appearances.

Stephen Twigg, Director

UK foreign policy in a European and global context
The crossover between domestic and international policies
The international role of education, especially as a tool for combating genocide

Adam Hug, Policy Director

Middle East, including Iran
Russia, The Caucasus and Central Asia, including energy security issues
The EU
The transatlantic relationship

Josephine Osikena, Democracy and Development Programme Manager

Development and democratisation in Sub-Saharan Africa
Economic development in francophone West Africa

Feng Zhang, China Programme Manager

Political and economic trends in China
Chinese foreign policy
Sino-Japanese relations, East Asian Security, North Korea

For more information, to arrange briefings or interviews, or for general media enquiries, please contact Anna Owen on 020 7729 7566 or anna.owen@fpc.org.uk

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The Foreign Policy Centre is a leading British think tank, established in 1998 by the then Foreign Secretary, the late Rt Hon Robin Cook and Tony Blair, who remains our Patron. Speakers at previous FPC events have included: Tony Blair, David Cameron, David Miliband, Sayeeda Warsi, Malcolm Rifkind, Margaret Beckett, Jack Straw, Menzies Campbell and Paddy Ashdown.



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For more information about how FPC membership could benefit your organisation, please contact the FPC director, Stephen Twigg, on: stephen.twigg@fpc.org.uk