



# e-UPDATE

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS



### Reconnecting the European Parliament and its People

The Foreign Policy Centre and the European Commission Representation in the UK are coordinating a project entitled 'Reconnecting the European Parliament and its People.' The project will comprise a series of four events across the UK, followed by research, that will examine UK public awareness and attitudes towards the European Parliament, assess the problems that it faces and explore some possible solutions.



If you would like to attend any or all of the events which form part of this project (see below), please email: [events@fpc.org.uk](mailto:events@fpc.org.uk)



#### **MANCHESTER**

**Date:** Friday 11 December, 5.00-6.45pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester M60 2LA

**Speakers include:**

- **Arlene McCarthy MEP**, Labour
- **Sajjad Karim MEP**, Conservative
- **Paul Nuttall MEP**, UKIP (tbc)
- **Jim Hancock**, former Political Editor, BBC North West
- **Chair: Stephen Twigg**, Director, Foreign Policy Centre



#### **EDINBURGH**

**Date:** Friday 29 January 2010, 5.00-6.45pm

**Venue:** Committee Rm 1, The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh EH99 1SP

**Speakers include:**

- **Rt Hon Charles Kennedy MP**, President, European Movement & Co-President, Foreign Policy Centre
- **Catherine Stihler MEP**, Labour
- **Struan Stevenson MEP**, Conservative
- **Further speakers tbc**
- **Chair: George Foulkes MSP**



#### **BIRMINGHAM**

**Date:** February 2010 (tbc)

**Venue:** TBC

**Speakers to be announced**

## THE FOREIGN POLICY CENTRE NEEDS YOU!

### **Project Survey: Reconnecting the European Parliament and its People**

As part of the Foreign Policy Centre's research project with the European Commission Representation in the UK, it is looking for respondents to answer a survey consisting of a range of questions about the European Parliament and the role of MEPs. The findings from the survey will help to inform the research and the pamphlet that will be published at the end of the project. If you can spare 10 minutes, it would be much appreciated!

 **Download the survey [here>](#)**

## NEW FPC PUBLICATIONS

### **Kazakhstan at a cross-roads**

A background paper by Adam Hug

2010 stands as a landmark year in the history of Kazakhstan and for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). It will be the first time a Central Asian nation takes the leadership of a major international political organisation. Kazakhstan will also be the first non-democracy to become the OSCE's Chairman-in-Office.

Kazakhstan will be under the international spotlight to an extent that it has not seen since independence. Against that backdrop, the Foreign Policy Centre is publishing a series of three detailed background papers assessing a number of key issues in Kazakhstan. These will be followed by the publication of a pamphlet. The first paper, focusing on **human rights and democracy** has just been published.

 **Download the paper [here>](#)**

### **Spotlight on Georgia**

Edited by Adam Hug

This new FPC pamphlet examines the growing human rights and governance challenges facing Georgia. It highlights increasing concerns, both internal and international, about Georgian rule of law, media freedom, policing and electoral processes. The pamphlet recommends how Georgia must reform and what the international community should do to support it.



It contains contributions from authors including: Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner; EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Peter Semneby; the Deputy Public Defender of Georgia, Giorgi Chekheidze; former UK Foreign Secretary, Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind MP; Chair of the UK's Georgian All Party Parliamentary Group, Bruce George MP; former US Ambassador to the USSR, Ambassador Arthur Hartman; author and Conciliation Resources Associate, Thomas de Waal; former OSCE Policing Adviser, Marco Kubny; Elsa Vidal from Reporters Without Borders; Giorgi Gogia from Human Rights Watch; and Dr Hans Gutbrod from the Caucasus Research Resource Centres.

 **Download the report [here>](#)**

## NEW FPC ARTICLES

Recent articles added to the [FPC website](#) have included:



### **Where now for Afghan 'democracy'?**

by Anna Owen

[Click here>](#)



### **Brazil aiming for a leading role in Copenhagen**

by Thiago de Aragao

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### **The significance of Venezuela's admission to Mercosur**

by Thiago de Aragao

[Click here>](#)



### **Pakistan's government plays second fiddle to the army**

by Ella Rolfe

[Click here>](#)



### **FPC Briefing: India's BJP contemplate their future**

by Chris Ogden

[Click here>](#)



### **Electoral reform in Lebanon**

by Deen Sharp

[Click here>](#)



### **Turkey, Syria's new best friend**

by Chris Phillips

[Click here>](#)

## NEW FPC BLOGS

Recent posts to the [FPC blog](#) have included:



### **Lisbon Treaty: Hard lessons and new opportunities**

by Chris Ostrowski

[Click here to read>](#)



### **Reconnecting the European Parliament and its people – Have your say**

[Click here to read>](#)

## RECENT EVENTS

### **Reconnecting the European Parliament and its People**

The Foreign Policy Centre and the European Commission Representation in the UK recently launched a new project, 'Reconnecting the European Parliament and its People.' The project will comprise a series of four events across the UK, followed by research, that will examine UK public awareness and attitudes towards the European Parliament, assess the problems that it faces and explore some possible solutions.



### **LONDON LAUNCH EVENT**

**Date:** Tuesday 1 December, 6.00-7.45pm

**Venue:** Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Room, Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA (off Westminster Hall, use St Stephen's entrance)

#### **Speakers**

- **Rt Hon Dr Denis MacShane MP**, former Minister for Europe
- **Rt Hon David Heathcoat-Amory MP**
- **John Peet**, Europe Editor, The Economist
- **Liz Atkins**, Director of Public Policy, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
- **Chair: Stephen Twigg**, Director, Foreign Policy Centre

### **Full and Equal Citizens: How to Deliver Equality for Israel's Arab Minorities**

**Date:** Thursday 19 November, 4.00-5.30pm

**Venue:** Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Room, Houses of Parliament, London SW1A 0AA (off Westminster Hall, use St Stephen's entrance)

#### **Speakers:**

- **Aida Touma-Sliman**, General Director, Women Against Violence
- **Shmuel Ben-Tovim**, Minister, Economic Affairs, Embassy of Israel
- **Leo Williams**, Manager, UK Friends of the Abraham Fund Initiatives
- **Adam Hug**, Policy Director, Foreign Policy Centre

**Chair: Sir Jeremy Beecham**, New Israel Fund

The Foreign Policy Centre recently hosted a Westminster Seminar to launch its 'Full and Equal Citizens: How to Deliver Equality for Israel's Arab Minorities?' project, supported by the Pears Foundation. The project will explore some of the main challenges facing Israel's Arab minorities, including: community relations, housing, education, economic development, employment, political representation and policing. It will also examine what lessons can be learned from UK anti-discrimination practice and how international donors can best support community cohesion in Israel.

## MEDIA COMMENTATORS

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. **If you could like to speak to one of them, please contact Anna Owen on 020 7729 7566 or [anna.owen@fpc.org.uk](mailto:anna.owen@fpc.org.uk)**



### **Stephen Twigg, Director**

UK foreign policy in a European and global context  
The crossover between domestic and international policy  
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 and the Transatlantic Relationship



### **Josephine Osikena, Director, Democracy and Development**

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



### **Anna Owen, Events and Projects Director**

Military dimensions of UK foreign policy, including Afghanistan and Pakistan  
UK armed forces and defence policy



### **Feng Zhang, China Programme Manager**

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

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### MEMBERSHIP FOR INDIVIDUALS



#### **Why join the Foreign Policy Centre?**

The Foreign Policy Centre is a leading British foreign affairs think tank, established in 1998 by the then Foreign Secretary, the late Robin Cook, with the aim of **developing innovative and practical policy solutions to global problems through research, publications and events.**

**Tony Blair** remains the Patron of FPC and has spoken at previous events, alongside David Miliband, Douglas Alexander, David Cameron, Sayeeda Warsi, Malcolm Rifkind, Margaret Beckett, Jack Straw, Menzies Campbell and Paddy Ashdown.

Membership of the Foreign Policy Centre is open to individuals who wish to engage more closely with foreign policy issues and the work of the Centre. Foreign policy has never been more important in politics and in society in general. FPC membership provides a chance to have your say on UK foreign policy and related issues – join today from **as little as £45 a year.**



#### **Join the Foreign Policy Centre and you will receive the following benefits:**

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## MEMBERSHIP FOR ORGANISATIONS



### **Why join the Foreign Policy Centre?**

If your organisation would like to be more closely involved with the work of the Centre, we can offer tailored benefits. We have an **Institutional Members** rate for educational and charitable/not for profit organisations, and a **Corporate Membership Scheme** which offers attractive benefits for corporate organisations.



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