



**The 14th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
"THE EUROPEAN UNION, TURKEY, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE KURDS"**

**DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO TYRANNY AND CHAOS IN THE MIDDLE EAST  
- KURDISH VISION AND STRATEGIES-**

Brussels, European Parliament

Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th of December 2017

**PATRONS**

**ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS DESMOND TUTU**

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, South Africa

**SHIRIN EBADI**

Human Rights Lawyer, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Iran

**BIANCA JAGGER**

Council of Europe Goodwill Ambassador, Chair of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, UK

**NOAM CHOMSKY**

Institute Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA

**LEYLA ZANA**

European Parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, Rafto Prize Laureate, Turkey

**BARONESS HELENA KENNEDY QC**

House of Lords, UK

**CHRISTINE BLOWER**

National Union of Journalist (NUT), International Secretary, UK

**PROF MARY DAVIS**

Visiting Professor of Labour History, Royal Holloway, University of London, UK

**DR DEREK WALL**

Joint International Co-ordinator of the Green Party of England and Wales and author

**SIMON DUBBINS**

UNITE International Director, UK

**LEN MCCLUSKEY**

UNITE General Secretary, UK

**MR JONATHAN STEELE**

Veteran foreign correspondent and author, UK

**DOUG NICHOLLS**

General Secretary, General Federation of Trade Unions, UK

**BERT SCHOUWENBURG**

International Officer, GMB, UK

In cooperation with



Kurdish Institute of Brussels

**IMPORTANT TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

**"HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND ENTER THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT"**

An official "European Parliament personal badge/pass" will be available for all **ALREADY REGISTERED** participants to the Conference.

Your "personal badge / pass" will be available at the main entrance of the European Parliament (Place de Luxembourg - main European Parliament's building "Altiero Spinelli" - just after the sliding doors you'll find a conference desk), **during and only the following date / hours:**

- **Wednesday 6th of December, 14:00 – 14:30**
- **Thursday 7th December, 08.00 – 09:00**
- **Thursday 7th December, 14:00 – 14:30**

All participants must take care of their own "EP badge / pass" during both days; if someone lose the "pass / badge" it will be impossible for the conference's organizers to replace it, according to the E.P. internal rules.

For any additional information, please contact the conference's secretariat:  
[brusselsconferenceep@gmail.com](mailto:brusselsconferenceep@gmail.com)

**DAY 1**

**Wednesday, 6th of December 2017, 15.00-16.00**  
**OPENING SESSION, Room - Altiero Spinelli A5E-2**  
Interpretation in Turkish, Kurdish, English, French, German

**OPENING SPEECHES AND SPECIAL REMARKS BY**

Ms. Kariane WESTRHEIM, Chair EUTCC, University of Bergen, Norway  
MEP Gabi ZIMMER, MEP, Chairwoman of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left Group (GUE/NGL) in the European Parliament, Germany  
MEP Josef WEIDENHOLZER, MEP, Vice-President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) in the European Parliament, Austria  
MEP Bodil VALERO, Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance, Sweden  
Mr. Doug NICHOLLS, General Secretary of General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)

**DAY 1**

**Wednesday, 6th of December 2017, 16.00-18.00**  
**Panel I, Room - Altiero Spinelli A5E-2**  
(Interpretation in Turkish, Kurdish, English, French, German)

**THE EU, TURKEY AND THE KURDS: NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FOR DEMOCRATIZATION**

Moderator  
Ms. Gökay AKBULUT, MP-Germany  
Ms. Dersim DAGDEVIREN, KURD-AKAD, Germany

**THE BREAKDOWN OF THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY**

Ms. .... Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP)

**POLITICS AND THE DEMOCRACY IN POST-COUP TURKEY**

Mr. Cengiz CANDAR, Journalist, Turkey (TBC)

**TURKEY AND ITS ALLIES' ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**

Ms. Frederike GEERDINK, Journalist, Netherland

**TURKEY'S RELATIONS AND TIES WITH RADICAL GROUPS**

Mr David PHILLIPS, Director of Peace-building and Human Rights Program, Columbia University, US

**THE FUTURE OF EU-TURKEY RELATION**

MEP Ana GOMES, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the EP

**DEMOCRATIC AUTONOMY AS A SOLUTION MODEL OF THE KURDISH QUESTION IN TURKEY**

Mr. Cetin GURER, Guest Researcher, University of Bremen, Centre for Work and Politics, Germany

**QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION WITH MODERATORS & DISCUSSANTS**

**DAY 2**

**Thursday, 7th of December 2017, 09.30-10.30**

**Panel III, Room 1G2**

(Interpretation in Turkish, Kurdish, English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Greek)

**THE STRUGGLE FOR GENDER EMANCIPATION IN/AND THE KURDISH FREEDOM  
MOVEMENT**

**PANEL DISCUSSION chaired by**

Dr Radha D'SOUZA, Reader in Law, University of Westminster, UK and Indian Social Justice and Civil Rights  
Activist, UK

In conversation with

Ms. Foza YUSUF, Co-Chair of the Executive Council of the Democratic Federation of Northern Syria  
and Rahila GUPTA, Journalist and Writer, UK

**DAY2**

**Thursday, 7th of December 2017, 10.30-13.00**

**Panel IV, Room 1G2**

(Interpretation in Turkish, Kurdish, English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Greek)

**CONSOLIDATING PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AFTER RAQQA:  
PROSPECTS FOR THE REGION AND THE KURDS**

Moderators

MEP Takis HADJIGEORGIOU, Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left  
Ms. Berivan ASLAN, Austrian political scientist, lawyer and politician of the Greens

**REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POWER POLITICS IN THE SYRIAN CONFLICT**

Mr. Jonathan STEELE, Veteran Foreign Correspondent and Author, UK

**REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POWER POLITICS IN THE IRAQ CONFLICT**

Mr. Evaggelos ARETAIOS, Journalist, Greece

**WAR ON TERROR, REFUGEE CRISIS, AND THE CRISIS OF EUROPE**

Mr Thomas Jeffrey MILEY, Lecturer of Political Sociology in the Department of Sociology at  
Cambridge, UK

**THE ANTI-WAR STRUGGLE AND THE DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERAL MODEL**

Mr. Darnell Stephen SUMMERS, Vietnam Veteran, Peace Activist, US

**THE ROLE AND POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS – POLITICAL AND LEGAL  
CHALLENGES**

Mr. Michael GUNTER, Professor in the Political Science department at Tennessee Tech University,  
Cookeville, US

**CONSOLIDATING STABILITY AND DEMOCRACY IN TRUKEY AND MIDDLE EAST**

Mr. ...., Lawyer of Andullah Ocalan, Asrin Hukuk Burosu, Turkey

**QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION WITH MODERATORS & DISCUSSANTS**

## DAY 2

**Thursday, 7th of December 2017, 15.00-17.30**

**Panel V, Room 1G2**

(Interpretation in Turkish, Kurdish, English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian)

### **THE NEW HOPE FOR HUMANITY AND THE DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERAL MODEL FOR CHANGE**

Moderators:

MEP Marie-Christine VERGIAT, GUE/NGL Group, France

Mr. Jonathan SPYER, Director for Rubin Center for Research in International Affairs. Israel

### **THE ROLE OF WESTERN AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN SYRIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST**

Ms. Amberin ZAMAN, Journalist, Turkey (TBC)

### **Dictatorship versus Democracy in the Middle East**

Mr./Ms (TBC)

### **THE DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERAL MODEL IN THEORY AND PRACTICE: ECONOMY, ECOLOGY, PATRIARCHY**

Ms. Sukran SINCAR, Kurdish Women's Movement Europa

### **SELF-GOVERNANCE, DE-CENTRALISATION AND CO-EXISTENCE**

Ms. Elezabeth KOURIE, Representatives from the Syriac Christian Community in North-Syria

### **THE EQUALITY AND UNITY OF RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES**

Mr. Metin RHAWI, Representative of European Syriac Union (ESU), North-Syria

### **THE STRUGGLE OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT AND THE DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERAL MODEL**

Mr Simon DUBBINS, UNITE International Director, UK

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION WITH MODERATORS & DISCUSSANTS

## **CLOSING SESSION**

**Thursday, 7th of December 2017, 17.30-18.00**

**Panel VI, Room 1G2**

(Interpretation in Turkish, Kurdish (passive), English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Portuguese)

### **CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINAL RESOLUTION**

EUTCC Board Members

Ms. Kariane WESTRHEIM, University of Bergen, Norway

Mr. Michael GUNTER, Tennessee Technological University, USA

Ms. Dersim DAGDEVIREN, KURD-AKAD, Germany

Mr. Joost JONGERDAN, University of Wageningen, The Netherlands

Ms. Estella SCHMID, Peace in Kurdistan (PIK), UK

Mr. Thomas MILEY, Lecturer of Political Sociology in the Department of Sociology at Cambridge, UK