Outcomes Report
Berlin, September 4-5, 2015

SAVE THE DATE
The next Mercator European Dialogue will take place on April 15-16, 2016.
ABOUT

The Mercator European Dialogue aims at encouraging a European network of EU parliamentarians, providing future leading and senior members of parliament the unique opportunity to exchange ideas on the future of Europe, share national concerns on a European level and better understand emerging trends. Stiftung Mercator launched the Mercator European Dialogue in cooperation with the German Marshall Fund of the United States | GMF in Germany, the Istituto Affari Internazionali | IAI in Italy, the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs | CIDOB in Spain, and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy | ELIAMEP in Greece.

On September 4-5, 34 members of national parliaments from 14 EU member states participated in the first two-day Mercator European Dialogue. The members of parliament came from a wide range of political and geographical backgrounds: from the left and the right of the political spectrum, from opposition and governing parties, from founding and long-time member states to recent ones, and with both future leaders and senior MPs representing the Baltic states, the British Isles, Eastern, Southern, and Central Europe.

PROCESS

The MPs engaged in a highly participatory and interactive process. On Day 1, the focus was on making connections, sharing and learning about political perspectives and trends that have shaped member states’ political outlook, attitudes and role towards Europe.

Only on Day 2 did the conversation focus on political discourses and issues. Participants first reflected on current political discourses on issues of shared European interest. Then, the MPs split in small groups and identified and discussed common areas of interest and action which they then clustered and prioritized in plenary.

Four issue areas were given priority by the MPs.
1. A strategic vision of the EU as global actor | foreign policy
2. Reconnecting people with Europe
3. Sustainable development in Europe
4. Refugees and immigration

In the final step, working groups were formed for each issue area with every MP choosing one. In the groups, the MPs conceptualized how to move these issues forward as a group – across party lines and national borders. These outcomes were presented by the groups to the plenary.

This process was facilitated by Peter Woodward and Mia Forbes Pirie.
AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015 FRIDAY

12.00 Arrival and Buffet Lunch
    Academy of Arts, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

13.00 Opening
    Ansgar Gessner | GMF

Welcome
    Michael Schwarz | Stiftung Mercator

Introduction
    Daniela Schwarzer | GMF

Agenda, process and ground rules
    Peter Woodward & Mia Forbes Pirie

SESSION 1
Making connections
An opportunity to meet and learn more about
the journeys and perspectives of political
participants from different member states.

SESSION 2
Outlooks on Europe from Member States
An opportunity to share and learn more about
the structural, cultural and historical context of
member states and how this informs their
emerging national political scene and
perspectives on Europe.

17.00 Close

17.15 Shuttle Transfer
    From Academy of Arts to Crowne Plaza,
    Hallesche Str. 10, 10963 Berlin

19.00 Shuttle Transfer
    From Crowne Plaza Hotel to Restaurant Volt,
    Ohlauer Str. 43, 10999 Berlin

19.30 Dinner at Restaurant Volt

22.15 Shuttle Transfer
    From Restaurant Volt to Crowne Plaza Hotel

23.00 Shuttle Transfer
    From Restaurant Volt to Crowne Plaza Hotel

SEPTEMBER 5, 2015 SATURDAY

08.20 Shuttle Transfer
    Crowne Plaza Hotel to Academy of Arts

08.30 Arrival and Refreshments
    Academy of Arts, Pariser Platz 4, 10117 Berlin

09.00 SESSION 3
Deepening insights on the national and
European political discourse
Reflections on the current political discourse
on issues of shared European interest and ways
it might be improved in the interest of citizens.

11.00 Refreshments

SESSION 4
Fresh approaches on Key Issue Areas
Identify and explore specific Key Issue Areas
of shared interest and consider if there are
new ways to conduct a discourse.

12.50 Lunch

13.45 SESSION 5
Exploring Key Issue Areas continued
Where might we go from here? Reflections on
this dialogue experience and ideas for the future.

15.00 Close
    Individual Departure
SUMMARY TRACK GROUP 1
A strategic vision of the EU as global actor | foreign policy

I. Overall goal
Defining a common strategic vision of the EU as global actor (foreign, security, development and regional policy)

II. Interest | Actions
» Developing a common strategic vision
» Sharing knowledge through direct connections
» Becoming thought leaders on the topic

III. Needs
» Bi-annual meeting (along the lines of this one) – possibly also a think tank fair
» Smaller work groups
» Structures in place to enable rapid reaction discussions (direct phone, e-mail, chats, video conference calls)
» A light form of coordinating secretariat
» Reports and analysis

IV. Core group
Boris Blažekovic
Neil Carmichael
Stephen Gethins
Vilija Aleknaite-Abramikiene

V. Additional sign-ups
Hans Reichhart
Theocharis Theocharis
Linas Balsys
Markus Blume
Marta Pascal
Matern Marschall von Bieberstein
Petra Ernstberger
Zsuzsanna Szelényi

SUMMARY TRACK GROUP 2
Reconnecting people with Europe

I. Overall goal
Reconnecting people to Europe in order for citizens to feel that they are part of the European project

II. Interest | Actions
» Form the Reconnect Europe Inter-Parliamentary Pressure Group
» Dissemination of the European values
» Developing and implementing a high school exchange program initiative
» Developing and implementing a number of projects or micro-initiatives (in mobility, language, education, culture and digitization)

III. Needs
» A Mercator European dialogue on the values of the EU
» A workshop on best practices in the field of cross-border educational and cultural projects
» A workshop with education experts and public relations experts
» A light form of coordinating secretariat

IV. Core group
Daniel Mondekar
Igor Kolman
Juan Moscoso del Prado
Markus Blume
Marta Marbán de Frutos
Marta Pascal
Sonja König

V. Additional sign-ups
Dominic Hannigan
Hans Reichhart
John Abraham Godson
Joost Taverne
Maruša Škopac
Neil Carmichael
Olav Gutting
Roos Vermeij
Zsuzsanna Szelényi
OUTCOMES

SUMMARY TRACK GROUP 3
Sustainable development in Europe

I. Overall goal
» Creating the mechanism for a political dialogue to encourage renewed momentum on the European sustainable development agenda
» Aim for Europe to be a global leader of effective sustainable development

II. Interest | Actions
» Build a connected network of parliamentarians with an interest | expertise in the agenda
» Research on different contexts, levels of progress, sensitivities, and implementation barriers in member states

III. Needs
» Convene a European Summit drawing together parliamentarians to develop renewed momentum on European SD.

IV. Core group
Linas Balsys
Matern Marschall von Bieberstein
Peter Woodward
Roos Vermeij
Theocharis Theocharis

V. Additional sign-ups
Dieter Janecek
John Abraham Godson
Juan Moscoso del Prado
Stephen Gethins

SUMMARY TRACK GROUP 4
Refugees and immigration

I. Overall goal
Defining a coherent European refugee | asylum and immigration strategy and policy

II. Interest | Actions
» Form a migration policy network for national MPs
» Work on defining an EU refugee and migration strategy and policy
» Help improve national capacities to deal with current arrivals
» Help improve intercultural capacities (for homogeneous societies)
» Conceive public campaigns (diversity, moral duty, historical memory (“everyone in Europe was a migrant at some point”))
» Push debate in inter-EU solidarity and burden sharing

III. Needs
» Study tour of refugee camps and | or rescue boat (Greece, Italy, Turkey)
» Understand countries of origin | hosting countries
» Sharing and learning from experiences best practices (laws, processes, integration) (EU, CEE, US)

IV. Core group
Dominic Hannigan
John Abraham Godson
Joost Taverne
Maruša Škopac
Melita Mulić
Petra Ernstberger
Zsuzsanna Szélényi

V. Additional sign-ups
Dieter Janecek
Linas Balsys
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Stiftung Mercator is a private foundation which fosters science and the humanities, education and international understanding. It specifically initiates, develops and funds projects and partner organizations in the thematic fields to which it is committed: it wants to strengthen Europe, improve integration through equal educational opportunities for everyone, drive forward the energy transition as a trigger for global climate change mitigation and firmly anchor cultural education in schools. Stiftung Mercator feels a strong sense of loyalty to the Ruhr region, the home of the founding family and the foundation’s headquarters.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan. GMF contributes research and analysis and convenes leaders on transatlantic issues relevant to policymakers. GMF offers rising leaders opportunities to develop their skills and networks through transatlantic exchange, and supports civil society in the Balkans and Black Sea regions by fostering democratic initiatives, rule of law, and regional cooperation. Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

The Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) was founded on 11 October 1965 on the initiative of Altiero Spinelli. The Institute’s main objective is to promote an understanding of the problems of international politics through studies, research, meetings and publications, with the aim of increasing the opportunities of all countries to move in the direction of supranational organization, democratic freedom and social justice (IAI Bylaws, Article 1). It’s main research areas include: EU Institutions and Politics, the EU’s Global Role, Turkey and the Neighbourhood, International Political Economy, Mediterranean and Middle East, Transatlantic Relations, Security and Defence, Italian Foreign Policy, Energy. A non-profit organization, the IAI is funded by individual and corporate members, public and private organizations, major international foundations, and by a standing grant from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) is an independent and plural think tank based in Barcelona, dedicated to the study, research and analysis of international affairs. Created in 1973 as an International Documentation Centre of Barcelona, it is a private foundation since 1979. CIDOB promotes global governance and good practices – based on local, national and European democratic government – to ensure that people possess the basic elements to live their lives free from fear and in liberty, by facilitating a dialogue that includes all diversities and which actively defends human rights and gender equality. CIDOB is a dynamic community of analytics that works to produce and offer to all political actors – from individual citizens to international organizations – information and ideas to formulate and promote policies for a more secure, free and fair world for everyone.

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ELIAMEP’s mission is to provide a forum for public debate on issues of European integration and international relations to conduct scientific research that contributes to a better informed and documented knowledge of the European and international environment.