

Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union  
Directorate for Democracy Support  
Human Rights Actions Unit

**Mid-term Conference  
The Sakharov Prize Network  
for stronger human rights action  
23-24 May 2016**

20.05.2016

**Draft Programme**

**Sunday, 22 May 2016**

Arrival of the Sakharov Prize Laureates, depending on flights

**Transfer** to the Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel,  
*Venue: Place Jean Rey 3, 1040 Bruxelles*

**Monday, 23 May 2016**

Arrival of the Sakharov Prize Laureates, depending on flights

**Transfer** to the Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel  
*Venue: Place Jean Rey 3, 1040 Bruxelles*

12.50      **Transfer** from the hotel to the restaurant

13.00-14.30      Lunch for Laureates  
*Venue: Restaurant Park Side, 24 Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée*

14.40      **Transfer** from the restaurant to the European Parliament with a stop at the hotel for the laureates who do not have meetings

15.00-16.00      Possibility for bilateral meetings/interviews or return to the hotel  
*Venue: Protocol room, Paul-Henri Spaak building, 3rd floor*

15.50      **Transfer** of the laureates from the Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel to the European Parliament (entrance tbc)

- 16.00-16.30 Briefing or possibility for bilateral meetings/interviews  
*Venue: Protocol room, Paul-Henri Spaak building, 3rd floor*
- 17.00-17.50 Cocktail  
*Venue: Yehudi Menuhin Space, Paul-Henri Spaak building*
- 18.00-19.45 Opening session**  
*Venue: Yehudi Menuhin Space, Paul-Henri Spaak building*
- 18.00-18.15 Introductory remarks by Vice-President of the European Parliament **Ulrike Lunacek**<sup>1</sup>
- Defending the defenders: silent vs megaphone diplomacy to protect human rights defenders**
- How to combine effectively confidential diplomatic demarches with vocal actions and public pressure, so that they reinforce each other, as well as how to counteract the increasing restriction of the space of action of civil society and human rights defenders in some countries, for example via “foreign agents” legislation?
- 18.15-18.45 Intervention by **Stavros Lambrinidis**, EU Special Representative for Human Rights, followed by Q & A (questions and answers) session.
- 18.45 Panel debate chaired by** **Ulrike Lunacek**, Vice-President of the European Parliament
- 18.45-19.15 Speakers:
- **Barbara Lochbihler**, Vice-Chair, Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament
  - **Denis Mukwege**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2014
  - **Vitaliy Ponomarev**, Representative of **Memorial**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2009
  - **Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2007
- 19.15-19.45 Discussion
- Participants: Members of the European Parliament, Non-governmental organisations - Front Line Defenders, International Federation for Human Rights, World Organisation Against Torture, Protection International, ProtectDefenders.eu and others.
- 20.00 Dinner hosted by **Ulrike Lunacek** on behalf of the President (by invitation)  
**The Sakharov Prize Network for stronger human rights action - discussion**  
*Venue: Presidential dining room on 12<sup>th</sup> floor (Paul-Henri Spaak building)*
- Transfer** of the laureates from the European Parliament to Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel

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<sup>1</sup> Vice-President Ulrike Lunacek represents the President of the European Parliament

*Venue: Place Jean Rey 3, 1040 Bruxelles*

**Tuesday, 24 May 2016**

8.30           **Transfer** of the laureates from the Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel European Parliament (*Protocol entrance, PHS*)

08.50           Family photo

*Venue: Protocol entrance area, floor 0 of the PHS building*

09.00 - 09.30 Address of the co-Chairs of the Sakharov Prize Network, **Martin Schulz**, President of the European Parliament, and **Ensaf Haidar**, wife and representative of **Raif Badawi**

Exchange of views

*Venue: Altiero Spinelli building, 5 G 2*

09.30-09.45 Intervention by **Elmar Brok**, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs on "European Parliament's experience with silent and public diplomacy"

09.45 - 11.00 Debate - **Sectarianism or religious and ethnic diversity**

Identity politics and sectarianism as a source of discrimination, tensions, violence, refugee flows, and violations of human rights. Are sectarian tensions the root cause of conflicts or a mere pretext for foreign interference and proxy wars? What can the EU and human rights defenders do to make societies adhere to the concept of citizenship in order to return to calm, ethnic and religious tolerance, to peace and mutual respect among groups?

Chaired by **Ana Gomes**, Member of the Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group

Introductory intervention by **Rudolf El-Kareh**, Professor, Sociologist and Political Scientist

First round participants: **Ali Ferzat**; **Taslima Nasreen**; **Vildana Selimbegović**, representative of Oslobodjenje, **Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman** (Sakharov Prize Laureates), **Mark Barwick** (Human Rights Without Frontiers International); followed by an interactive debate open to all participants.

*Venue: Altiero Spinelli building, 5 G 2*

11.00           Pause

11.15 - 12.45 Debate - **Defending human rights in a digital era**

The impact of current internet realities on the work of human rights defenders and on polices to defend human rights and freedoms. What are and should be the limits of online safety and freedom of expression? How to strike the right balance between freedom of expression online and limiting hate speech? Whose role it is to regulate?

And what role does the EU have in setting best practice on laws around privacy online?

Chaired by **Christian Dan Preda**, Vice-Chair, Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament

Introductory intervention: **Guy Berger**, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression and Media, UNESCO

First round participants: **Sophie Busson**, representative of **Reporters Without Borders**; **Zhanna Litvina**, representative of the **Belarusian Association of Journalists**, **Vitaliy Ponomarev**, representative of **Memorial** (Sakharov Prize Laureates); **Caroline Giraud**, Global Forum for Media Development, **Marc van der Ham**, Google, Public Policy & Government Relations EU, **Oktavía Jónsdóttir** independent advisor and collaborator with Front Line Defenders, **Estelle Massé**, Access Now, **Jean-Paul Marthoz**, Committee to Protect Journalists, followed by an interactive debate open to all participants.

*Venue: Altiero Spinelli building, 5 G 2*

13.00 - 14.30 Lunch hosted by **Linda McAvan**, Chair, Committee on Development of the European Parliament (by invitation)

*Venue: Members' restaurant, ASP 0 floor*

15.00-16.00 Closing session - **Conclusions**

Participants: Sakharov Prize Laureates, Vice-President of the European Parliament **Ulrike Lunacek**, European Parliament Members tbc

*Venue: Altiero Spinelli building, 5 G 2*

16.30-18.00 Possibility for bilateral meetings/interviews

16.30 *If no meetings/interviews:*

**Transfer** of the laureates to Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel

*Venue: Place Jean Rey 3, 1040 Bruxelles*

17.00 **Transfer** of the **Dr Mukwege** to the airport from the European Parliament

19.30 Dinner hosted by **Elena Valenciano**, Chair, Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament (by invitation)

*Venue: Presidential dining room on 12<sup>th</sup> floor (Paul-Henri Spaak building)*

**Transfer** of the laureates to Aloft Brussels Schuman hotel

*Venue: Place Jean Rey 3, 1040 Bruxelles*

### Wednesday, 25 May 2016

Possibility for bilateral meetings/interviews with some Laureates

Departure of the Laureates

**Sakharov Prize Laureates participating at Mid-Term Conference of the Sakharov Prize  
Network, Brussels 23-24 May 2016**

1. **Ensaf Haidar**, wife of **Raif Badawi**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2015, Saudi Arabia
2. **Denis Mukwege**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2014, DRC
3. **Ali Ferzat**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2011, Syria
4. **Vitaliy Ponomarev**, representative of **Memorial**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2009, Russia
5. **Salih Mahmoud Mohamed Osman**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2007, Sudan
6. **Sophie Busson**, representative of **Reporters Without Borders**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2005
7. **Zhanna Litvina**, Representative of the Belarusian Association of Journalists, Sakharov Prize Laureate 2004, Belarus
8. **Taslima Nasreen**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 1994, Bangladesh
9. **Vildana Selimbegovi** , Representative of **Oslobodjenje**, Sakharov Prize Laureate 1993, Bosnia and Herzegovina

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