



EIPISA'S #FOOD4THOUGHT

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2016 Annual report

Letter from **Mr José Miguel Llorens Izquierdo**,
General Secretary of EIPISA

Dear friends,

It has been already a year since we decided to take a step further into our commitment with EIPISA's mission opening our current Brussels office. The Board set up a strategic plan with clear and accurate steps towards accomplishing our goals.

Throughout this year we have seen our infrastructure develop through the commitment and dedication of our Brussels team, who has helped us to strengthen our ties with the European institutions and with prominent members of the civil society organisations based in Brussels.

Organisation and Dissemination. Our key focus during this year was to build up the pillars that will hold the events that we will host in the near future: trainings, seminars, workshops, conferences and publications.

In the months to come we will organise an international conference on terrorism in Brussels, bringing attention to key political aspects through our social media and building those necessary bridges of knowledge, understanding and cooperation that will allow us to provide the best solutions for peace, security and stability.

From EIPISA we are working to find those solutions, and any support to reach this goal is welcome. We count on you to help us achieve our mission.

Sincerely,

José Miguel Llorens Izquierdo
General Secretary, EIPISA

Some thoughts on...

On Geopolitics

German Chancellor meets US President at the White House

After the statements commonly made by Trump during his campaign regarding Brexit, NATO or the role of the EU, this first encounter between the German Chancellor and the US President is of great interest: its conclusions will show the nature of the collaboration that will develop during the next few years if the German Chancellor wins the German election for the fourth time. The relation between Europe and the US is key to understand the world's geopolitical map, and its course will depend on the outcome of this meeting.

On Terrorism

Do European policies help spread terrorism?

Recently Syrian President Bashar al Assad claimed that it is European policies that spread terrorism. From EIPISA, we cannot avoid seeing the similarities between the statement made by Marion Maréchal-Le Pen claiming that the EU was responsible for the French terrorist attacks and the recent conclusion reached by the Syrian President. Nonetheless, we would like to dig deeper and connect the facts and the interests behind these statements, and show that these are not naive but rather misleading statements that divert attention from the true reasons (in the case of President Bashar al Assad, from the massive human rights violations that have taken place under his rule).

On European Politics

On European Politics

Islamophobia as a new political ideology?

We have seen how Islamophobia has been at the core of the political narrative of European and American leaders, like Dutch parliamentary candidate Geert Wilders. Wilders has defended that the Quran is an evil book, has pleaded for the closing down of Islamic schools, and has asked for a ban on the construction of mosques. Can the European Union accept this kind of political rhetoric that is contrary to the common European values? Do Europeans identify with this narrative? Is this Europe's political future?

On Refugee Crisis

Merkel visits Egypt with an eye on the refugee crisis

The German Chancellor has held talks with Egyptian authorities to support Egypt's economic development in exchange for help to reduce the flow of migrants into Europe. As the Commission's infamous "Plan B" has found once again room in the agenda, Angela Merkel has travelled to Egypt to reach a deal on migrants between Germany and Egypt instead of setting up a coherent European migrant policy based on a human rights approach. Since the refugee crisis is a European problem, it should be commonly discussed and solutions should be sought hand in hand by all Member States, and not individually by each country seeking to find the "best-deal".

On Human Rights

Brexit, an ongoing crisis

European political leaders have reacted to the suggestion that Brexit could take place with no multibillion pound "divorce settlement".

The European Commission has set an amount of approximately sixty billion euros that the UK would have to pay to fulfil its commitments as a former Member State. With the House of Lords favouring this decision, and Scotland pressuring Brussels to get immediate access to the European Union after Brexit, this crisis looks far from finding a solution and we might have to wait until this year's French and German elections to see how the process unfolds. An unlikely victory of the National Front in France might grant access to a soft Brexit, but could mean the end of the EU as we know it. But what if instead of Brexit we as Europeans used this crisis to forge closer links with more democratic values?

US considering leaving the Human Rights Council

After her first meeting with the UN Security Council, US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley called out the Human Rights Council for "breathtaking double standards" and "outrageously biased resolutions" against Israel.

We have often seen how political representatives claim that human rights are an excuse for terrorist organisations to carry out undercover activities. However, human rights are to be safeguarded regardless of the situation.

A couple of weeks ago, Israel refused to grant a visa to a Human Rights Watch researcher upon accusations of engaging "Palestinian propaganda", but how could human rights be propaganda if we all should be protecting them?

Key documents & Events

Terrorism's terminology, by Carlo Jose Vicente Caro, Foreign Affairs

How 2016 became the worst year for Syria's children, by UNICEF

Counter-terrorism cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood, by Florence Gaub, Annelies Pauwels (EU Institute for Security Studies)

The European Union's Policies on Counter-Terrorism, coordinated by Kristiina Milt, European's Parliament for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs

- **Migration and the management of the external border: EU and US policies compared.**
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- **Women and the new humanitarian agenda**
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- **What prospects for an effective and coherent European Neighbourhood Policy?**
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- **Challenges in the Mediterranean: Terrorism, Conflict and Refugees**
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- **Conversations on the future of Europe**

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