



RESULTS OF NEW GALLUP POLL OF MEPs RELEASED AT FOUNDATION WEEK

EMBARGO: 15.00 Wednesday 2 June

Brussels, 1 June –“Foundation Week” will tomorrow enter its third day with the opening of the Annual Conference of the European Foundation Centre (EFC) at “SQUARE” rue Mont des Arts, Brussels. A key item of debate will be the results of a new Gallup Poll on MEPs’ perceptions of foundations and the role they play.

The EFC in conjunction with Gallup surveyed Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in spring 2010 to find out what they know about foundations, how they view the sector, and what actual experience they have had with foundations. The results showed that participating MEPs generally had a positive image of foundations and said they should play a role in realising the EU 2020 Agenda.

Key findings include:

- A broad consensus among participating MEPs that European foundations should play a role in the EU 2020 Agenda with 70% agreeing that it should be the case.
- About two-thirds of MEPs who participated (68%) claimed to have a good overall knowledge of foundations.
- Over a third of participating MEPs (36%) said that they had worked for a foundation as a staff member, board member or volunteer.
- Across all main political groups, the public good was the concept that respondents associated most closely with foundations (63%-70%).
- About three-quarters of participating MEPs (73%) declared that they would support a proposal for a European Foundation Statute.
- Over 8 in 10 (83%) MEPs who participated declared that they would be interested in meeting foundations active in their field(s) of expertise/competence.

The European Foundations Survey was an online survey conducted by Gallup and the EFC in February-March 2010, and was designed to gain a better idea of MEP’s perception and knowledge of foundations, and to collect MEPs’ views on potential EU legislative action in the field, notably on potential regulation concerning a European Foundation Statute. A total of 92 MEPs responded to the poll.

The full results of the survey will be released during the opening plenary of the EFC’s AGA (Copper Hall, SQUARE, 15:00 - 16:30) Panellists include Caroline Bergaud, Gallup Europe, Nadja Hirsch, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Manuel Medina Ortega, Former MEP, Gerry Salole, EFC and will be moderated by Jacki Davis, European Policy Centre. Results of the poll are under embargo until 15.00 Wednesday 2 June.

The results of the poll are also available at: www.efc.be/foundationweek

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Other highlights for Wednesday 2 June include:

09:00 – 13:00 Room: 314

Key challenges for Roma inclusion in Europe

Organised by: EFC Forum for Roma Inclusion

The event will focus on the work of the EFC Forum for Roma Inclusion and review the latest developments at European level, including the latest EU policies, funding plans in respect of Roma and the main conclusions of the Second European Roma Summit in Cordoba, which took place in April 2010. The event will act as a market place of ideas to debate current challenges to Roma inclusion with representatives from EU institutions, foundations and Roma stakeholders. In this context, foundations will have the opportunity to learn from one another and to enter a dialogue with EU officials on how to support Roma-led initiatives throughout the Union.

09:00 – 13:30 Room: 201 AB

Peace and security policy briefing: A view from Europe (Part 2)

This is the second part of a two-day seminar about Europe's most pressing challenges to peace and security and the role of philanthropy in addressing these challenges.

09.30 – 12.30 Room: 216

LGBT (Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual) rights in the South: Capacity building of civil society actors

Organised by: Hivos (Humanistic Institute for Cooperation with developing countries)

The rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transsexuals are intrinsically connected with freedom, self determination and access to chances and opportunities. Hivos is working in the South on LG BT rights, together with local partners fighting discrimination and violence against sexual minorities. This session will explore how capacity building and funding can ensure that civil society groups are strengthened in their plight for LG BT rights in the South. The session will be facilitated by expert Hivos staff on this subject.

17:00 - 18:30 Room: 201

The European Foundation Statute – Where does it stand?

What is the current state of play regarding the development of a European Foundation Statute? The feasibility study on a European Foundation Statute (published in 2009) showed that the costs of current barriers to foundations' cross-border work are considerable and the reduction of these would enable foundations to do more for public good. The European Foundation Statute is considered the best policy option to remove existing barriers. A couple of hundred foundations participated in the European Commission public consultation on the matter (results published in November 2009) and stressed their support for the statute. This session will discuss legislative moves with EU level politicians.

For Foundation Week, Alliance has assembled an international team of contributors that will be blogging throughout the week. They will post regular updates and responses to sessions on this blog site, as well as video interviews and end-of-day summaries. Go to: <http://alliancemag.wordpress.com/>

For media credential information and other details related to Foundation Week, please contact:

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