

**Joining up EU and US policy towards Eritrea and the Horn
for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights**

**Joint Media Team
EPM-EDP-EPP
08.11.2009**

The conference on joining up EU and US policy towards Eritrea and the horn for the promotion of Democracy and Human Rights will start tomorrow, Monday 09, 2009 in Brussels..

Mr. Woldesus Ammar, Chairman of the Joint Leadership Committee of EPM, EDP and EPP which are expected to form one party in the coming month of December will be one amongst many who will present a paper on the topic Eritrea's Options for Democratisation.

The conference is organized by European External Policy Advisors, an NGO based in Europe, and the two days conference work plan will be as follows.



**Joining up EU and US policy
towards Eritrea and the Horn
for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights
November 9 – 10, 2009
Scotland House, Place Schuman, Brussels**

9 November

9.00 **Welcome** by **Luisa Morgantini**, former Vice-President of the European Parliament

Opening Addresses

Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid, European Commission

Robert Houdek, former Ambassador to Ethiopia and Eritrea, United States

Kjell Magne Bondevik, Former Prime Minister of Norway and President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights

Bereket Habte Selassie, Distinguished Professor of African Studies and Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina and former Chair of the Constitutional Commission of Eritrea

Setting the Scene

Luisa Morgantini (Chair)

Elisabeth Chyrum, Human Rights Defender, Director of Human Rights Concern – Eritrea

Tsedal Yohannes, Testimony

Message from **Congressman Royce**, United States

Alex De Waal*, Fellow Harvard University and member of the Mbeki Commission

Dan Connell, Author and former journalist, Distinguished Lecturer in journalism and African politics at Simmons College, Boston

11.00 **Key Note Addresses: EU and US policy to the Horn in Transition**

Kathleen Ferrier, MP* (Chair)

Roger Moore, Director Horn of Africa, Directorate-General Development, European Commission

Karl E Wycoff*, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Horn, State Department

H.E. Ambassador Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament

13.00 Lunch

14.30 **Regional Perspectives for Democratisation and Promotion of Human Rights in the Horn Region**

Guy Poppe (Chair)

Invited Ambassadors will be asked to provide perspectives on the regional views for democratisation and promotion of human rights in the Horn

15.30 Break

16.00 **Panel: Human Rights Violations in the Region and Violations of International Law**

Paddy Maguinness (Chair)

Selam Kidane, Democracy and Human Rights Advocate

Noel Joseph, Human Rights Advocate

Daniel Rezene Mekonnen, PhD, Fellow Human Rights Centre, University of Gent

Jonathan Elliott, Human Rights Watch, Africa Advocacy Director

Giampaolo Calchi Novati, Head of the Africa Programme at ISPI, professor, University of Pavia, History of Africa.

Emma Achilli, EU Human Rights and Democracy Initiative, European Commission

Eva-Britt Svensson, MEP, Sweden, European Parliament

17.30 **Abdulrahman Sayed**, Presentation media committee and conference statement drafting committee

10 November

9.00 **Panel: Eritrea's options for Democratisation**

Mehret Ghebreyesus (Chair)

Woldeyesus Ammar, Chairman, Joint Leadership Committee (EDP/EPM/EPP).

Suleiman A. Hussein, Citizens for Democratic Rights in Eritrea (CDRIE)

Dawit Mesfin, Researcher/Birkbeck College

Judith Sargentini, MEP, Netherlands and former democracy activist Southern Africa

Anthony Carroll, Vice President, Manchester Trade Ltd, policy specialist on the Horn, Washington, USA

Tom Vens, Eritrea desk, European Commission

Guillaume Lacroix*, European Council, Africa

12.00 Break

14.00 **Panel: The Horn Region options for Democratisation**

Abdulrahman Sayed, Researcher on Federalism, Founding and Executive member of Citizens for Democratic Rights in Eritrea – CDRIE (Chair)

Thijs Berman, MEP

Eshetu Bekele, Executive Director, Poverty Action Network of Civil Society Organisations (PANE) in Ethiopia

Mohamed Ahmed Jama, Director of the Somali Organisation for Community Development Activities (SOCDA) in Mogadishu

Professor Gaim Kibreab, London South Bank University

Karl E Wycoff*, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Horn, State Department

Jeremy Lester, Head of Unit Horn of Africa Region, Directorate-General Development,
European Commission
15.30 Break

16.00 *Presentation of draft Conference Statement*

Closing addresses:

Dan Connell

Louisa Morgantini

Bereket Habte Selassi

*not confirmed