



## ACTIVITIES IN AND AROUND ETTW

*No. 5 - Update January 2016*

Pilot project

### ETTW news from Brussels

#### 1. The EU Commission's public hearing of the European Citizenship report 2016

ETTW has on December 3, 2015 sent our detailed comments and proposals to Commissioner Jourova, who is responsible for citizenship questions. Our proposals were prepared in our Board in a discussion with our member organizations.

Our proposals were concentrating on these points:

- Intra-EU mobility (better and more accessible information; cross-border education and training)
- Values of EU citizenship, democratic and civic participation

Our proposals are, of course, available to those who are interested.

We will now follow the next steps in the Commission's preparations of the final Citizenship very closely and keep you posted and involved in the next steps when ETTW is concerned.

#### 2. ETTW proposal for a grand debate on free movement in the EU, perhaps with a European Year on Mobile Citizens

(to be filled out).....

#### 3. First European Convention for Europeans Living Abroad

In continuation of the discussions and the recommendations in Riga in May 2015 ETTW has contacted the prime minister of Malta, Mr. *Joseph Muscat*, to propose to him that a First European Convention for Europeans Living abroad should be organized in Valletta in cooperation between the Maltese government and ETTW.



The prime minister sent us on December 4, 2015 a positive reply to our suggestion, though he underlined that it for practical reasons wouldn't be possible during Malta's EU-presidency in the first part of 2017. ETTW has now proposed the event for sometime during 2018 – also a good timing before the next European elections in the spring of 2019.

#### 4. Coordination meeting between the four ETTW working groups on:

- A new European Emigrants' Policy (incl. follow-up to Riga)
- Voting rights for all European expats in the European elections 2019
- Electronic registration and voting; on-line polling
- Expats and education

The meeting took place on January 14 under the presidency of Mr. Steen Illeborg. A joint plan for the next steps was agreed, incl. presentations on the next ETTW Board meeting on March 10.

#### 5. ETTW active monitoring of rulings by the European Court of Justice – of particular interest to European expatriates:

A ETTW meeting with the president of the Court, Mr. *Koen Lenaerts*, is planned for early February. Mr. Steen Illeborg and Mrs. Ria Heremans will represent ETTW.

## NEWS from members, partners and contacts

*( deadline announced in ENS in December: Jan. 11 )*

### Belgium

*Vlamingen in de Wereld*

We have one upcoming event:

[VIW ACADEMY / Inspiration & networking event.](#)



**Internationalisation starts at the school. This evening links study mobility to labor mobility. Young people with foreign plans are stimulated by educational institutions, the Flemish government and many businesses with exciting challenges worldwide. For many an international internship, an overseas semester or a foreign doctorate is a seed that grows into a broader experience.**

**Date: Tuesday, February 16 | More information: [info@viw.be](mailto:info@viw.be)**

**Contact:**

**Koen Van der Schaeghe**

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## **Croatia**

### ***Croatian World Congress***

**An interesting result from the recent Government's elections in Croatia.**

**Elections were held on 11. of Nov 2015. and since the two major political parties , one from the left and one from the right, could not obtain sufficient majority to form a government on their own right fierce negotiations ensued with the third and new political force in the country called 'Most' (Bridge) which managed to obtain 19 seats, out of 140, in the new parliament.**

**Eventually a deal was made to form a new government between right wing HDZ ( Croatian Democratic Union) and the new player in the Croatian politics Most. The new government still needs to be approved by the Parliament but what has caused quite a sensation was that the new junior partner in this new coalition government has forced its bigger partner HDZ in accepting a neutral candidate for the post of prime minister, who happens to be an Expat! His name is Tihomir Orešković, born in Canada.**

**He is a successful businesses man, was manager of one of the leading pharmaceutical firms in the country, is member of the Croatian-Israeli business club, a practising Catholic, he and his family have returned to live and work in Croatia some years ago.**



**This is the first time that someone who was born outside Croatia has become the leader of the Government.**

**It is also the second time since the establishment of Croatia as an independent state, when Expats made an enormous contribution in its formation and subsequent defence against foreign invasion, that the two halves of Croatian people, those living in Croatia and those living abroad are brought together.**

**This is an historical occasion that will see Croatian Diaspora much more involved in direct assistance and investment into Croatian economy and country's future prosperity.**

**It definitely opens a new chapter in Croatian political and social scene.**

**Contact:**

**Stephen Asic e-mail: [asicnet@iinet.net.au](mailto:asicnet@iinet.net.au)**

**President**

**Croatian World Congress**

## **Italy**

### ***Friuli nel Mondo***

**FRIULI NEL MONDO has a new President.**

**The entrepreneur *Adriano Luci* has succeeded last December to Piero Pittaro as a President of our associated member Friuli nel Mondo, the association representing friulian expatriates around the world.**

**Adriano Luci is a successful entrepreneur in the Region, in charge of Lights Group, which brings together several companies. Mr Luci is also vice-chairman of Banca Popolare di Cividale, an important bank of Friuli.**

**The new president will have to preserve, enhance and increase an impressive "human heritage" of more than 23,000 members of the 155 Fogolaris (the local associations linked to Friuli nel Mondo) present on all continents, from Europe to Australia, from Asia to North and South America, with an estimated concerned population of 200.000 visitors per year. A legacy and a mission, now in the hands of the new President, with an enormous potential.**



**In recent years, the association has in fact greatly enhanced the economic link with friulian expatriates abroad: the nomination of Mr Luci is the expression of the continuation of this path.**

**In addition to the figure of the new President has been also renovated the Board of Directors, including now *Ms Rita Zancan*, well known by ETTW members, after her participation to the meeting in Riga.**

**Mr Piero Pittaro, who was in charge of the Association since 2000 and worked hard for the membership of FnM to ETTW, was awarded the post of Honorary President of Friuli nel Mondo.**

**To the new President Adriano Luci the ETTW most sincere congratulations and best wishes for this new assignment, hoping that we will continue in a so precious collaboration in favour of expatriates from Friuli in the world.**



**Mr. Adriano Luci and Mr. Piero Pittaro.**

**Contact:**

**Mr. Christian Canciani, e-mail: [info@friulinelmondo.com](mailto:info@friulinelmondo.com)**



## Lithuania

### *Global Lithuanian Young Leaders*

**Our Global Lithuanian Awards event in December was great, we had a blast at the Presidential palace. These first months of 2016 is dedicated for planning and spinning off new programs, so far nothing to declare:)**

**Not sure if this one would be interesting topic, but sharing our outcome of the recent joint project:**

**Within the framework of Erasmus+ project of strategic partnerships GRADual, consortium Partners For Value (Lithuanian Association of Industrialists) in cooperation with Fundación Universidad-Empresa (Spain), Saltire Foundation (Scotland), Global Lithuanian Leaders (Lithuania) as well as 6 Spanish and Lithuanian universities have executed the Guidelines on Establishing and Effectively Running Student/Graduate Internship Programmes**

**The Guidelines focus on: the framework for developing and running effective student and graduate internship programmes; the resources needed for the successful organisation of said programmes (legal and financial arrangements); suggested structure for internship schemes; programme management, monitoring and measurement of impact; the role and added value provided through the participation of intermediary organizations.**

**This document is therefore meant to be used by institutions which are active (or interested) in designing, developing, managing and/or collaborating in effective internship programmes for university students and recent graduates. In other words, it's to be used by higher education institutions (universities and colleges) and intermediary organizations, which provide services to universities and businesses.**

**Link to Guidelines: [http://www.partners4value.lt/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/GRADual\\_Guidelines\\_LAST.pdf](http://www.partners4value.lt/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/GRADual_Guidelines_LAST.pdf)**

**Contact:**

**Mrs. Kotryna Stankute, director**

**e-mail: [kotryna@lithuanianleaders.org](mailto:kotryna@lithuanianleaders.org)**

## Portugal

**There is plenty of activities in relation to Portuguese expats :-)**



**First of all, we have the presidential elections this week end: Portuguese diaspora can vote Saturday and Sunday in the consulate.**

**We finally know the new secretary of state of the Portuguese communities: his name is *José Luis Carneiro*. He will probably convoke the Plenary of the Council of the Portuguese communities in April.**

**The Plenary is important because a new board will be elected and it will be the kick off of our work.**

**Before the Plenary, I will organize a "table ronde" with the Portuguese community of Belgium. The aim is to discuss about the main issues of our diaspora: education, culture promotion, voting rights...**

**Normally, the table ronde will occur in the Parliament of Brussels.**

**Contact:**

**Pedro Rupio**

**Conselheiro das Comunidades Portuguesas**

**Conseiller communal à Saint-Gilles, Belgium**

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## **Romania**

### ***Rombel – Romanian Community in Belgium***

**From ROMBEL - Romanian community in Belgium here are the news:**

- 24/01 - the conference of Romanian's Diaspora, held in Bucharest Parliament Palace.**
- 29/01 - the launch of " Unite in Good" , a non profit organisation focused on charity, which works closely wth Rombel.**
- 30/01 - 5th edition of Rombel Dialogues, with invites from romanian cultural sector and book writers, event under Romanian Cultural Institute sponsorship.**

**Contact:**

**Dorin Fleseriu, president of ROMBEL,**

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## United Kingdom

Consequence of Brexit for British expats

post on Votes for Expat Brits blog

**[Impact of Brexit on 2 Million Expat Brits & Other Major Issues.](#)**

by **[right2vote4xpatbrits](#)**

Fast forward to 22.50 minutes the BBC Radio 4 podcast below and listen to Jean-Claude Perez, who served for 23 years as Head of Legal Services to the EU Council of Ministers, talking about the implications of a Brexit for the 2 million British citizens currently benefiting from being EU citizens when studying, working or living in other EU member states. Other interviews in this podcast also cover the other major issues involved in a Brexit for the UK as a whole.

Should the UK government in the event of a Brexit still want to maintain the benefits of freedom of movement, health, pensions etc. for these 2 million British citizens, he suggests that the EU would insist on reciprocal benefits for the 2 million EU citizens also currently studying, working or living in the UK (including those from Eastern Europe).

If you are one of these 2 million British citizens resident within another EU member state, shouldn't you now be making sure that you will be able to vote in the UK's EU Referendum, which seems increasingly likely to take place in the second half of 2016?

You can register to vote via the link here if you have been resident abroad for less than 15 years:  
**[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**

Contact :

Brian Cave, leader of register-to-vote campaign, France

e-mail: **[lefourquet@gmail.com](mailto:lefourquet@gmail.com)**

*LibDem starts campaign to mobilize British expats*

**Lib Dems launch EU referendum campaign to mobilise British expat voters across Europe**





**The Brussels and Europe Liberal Democrats (BELD) this week launched their EU referendum campaign aimed at mobilising British expat voters across the EU.**

**Liberal Democrat MEP *Catherine Bearder* said:**

**"The Liberal Democrats will be making a positive, passionate case why Britain is better off in Europe.**

**"One of the biggest benefits of EU membership is the opportunity to live, work and retire across the continent.**

**"We must secure this right for our children and grandchildren as well as the estimated 2 million British citizens currently living around Europe."**

**BELD Chair *George Cunningham* said:**

**"Liberal Democrats fought hard to try and give all British expats in the EU the right to vote in the referendum, but the Government refused to go along with that.**

**"The next battle is to ensure that those who are eligible register in time and don't let their right to vote slip through their fingers.**

**"British expats will lose out heavily if we leave the EU. But with the current polls neck and neck, every vote from British expats in Europe will count.**

**"Join our campaign today to give British voters across Europe a voice and defend the right to free movement in the EU."**

**The campaign has a Facebook page with up-to-date news about the debate.**

**More information on the Brussels and Europe Lib Dems referendum campaign and practical advice about voting can be found [here](#).**

**Only British Expats who have been living away from Britain for less than 15 years and are registered in their original constituencies have the right to vote in the EU referendum.**



**Contact:**

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## COMING EVENTS

**March 10: ETTW Board meeting and General Assembly**

**July 1: Slovakia takes over the EU presidency**

**Jan. 1: Malta takes over the EU presidency**



*Niels Jørgen Thøgersen - 22 01 2016*

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