

# **COMMUNICATING EUROPE DUTCH PERSPECTIVES ON EU ENLARGEMENT**

**Monday 23 November 2009  
At the Felix Meritis Centre Amsterdam**

SUPPORTED BY:



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**FELIX MERITIS**  
EUROPEES CENTRUM VOOR KUNST, CULTUUR EN WETENSCHAP

**European Fund for the Balkans**  
*Bringing the Western Balkans closer to the European Union*

## **COMMUNICATING EUROPE DUTCH PERSPECTIVES ON EU ENLARGEMENT**

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This one day workshop will discuss the nature and dynamics of the Dutch EU-enlargement debate. The Netherlands has been one of the most active EU member states engaging with the Western Balkans.

How will Dutch domestic debates influence its position on Balkan enlargement? Is a tough position on conditionality a potential advantage, as Western Balkans countries look for allies in their quest to advance their EU integration?

The workshop will explore consensus building in the Netherlands. It will look at how the Dutch political class and interest groups define fundamental foreign policy positions. It will also discuss the lessons from 2009 for the future of the enlargement process, with a new European Parliament in place, with a new European Commission, and the Lisbon Treaty reforms, coming into effect, and with a successful visa liberalisation process. This is the eighth workshop in the Communicating Europe series of informal events.

### **Monday 23 November**

0845 Meet in Reception, of the Times Hotel to walk to Felix Meritis Centre: Keizersgracht 324, NL-1016 EZ Amsterdam Venue: Teekenzaal Room, 2nd Floor.

0915-0930 **INTRODUCTION - OVERVIEW**  
**Chris LANGDON**  
Project Director, ESI Communicating Europe Series  
**Alexandra STIGLMAYER**  
Project Director, ESI Visa Liberalisation Project

0930 -1030 **PROGRESS ON EU INTEGRATION – OPEN SESSION**  
**Moderated by Gerald KNAUS**  
Chairman, European Stability Initiative  
*The session is an opportunity for participants to update the group on their progress on EU integration*  
1030-1100 **Coffee break**

1100-1230

**DUTCH POLICIES ON EU ENLARGEMENT**

**Pieter DE GOOIJER**

Director-General for Political Affairs, Netherlands  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

1230-1330

**DUTCH DECISION-SHAPING ON RELATIONS  
WITH THE WESTERN BALKANS**

**Steven BLOCKMANS**

Senior fellow, TMC Asser Institute, the Hague

**Dion van den BERG**

Senior Policy Adviser, IKV Pax Christi, Utrecht

1330-1430

**Lunch**

Opportunity for the discussion to continue

1430-1600

**EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT  
DUTCH POLITICS BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK**

**Ben Crum**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science,  
Free University of Amsterdam

**Marc KRANENBURG**

Diplomatic Editor, NRC Handelsblad, Rotterdam

1600-1630

**Tea/coffee**

1630-1800

**WHAT IS THE RELEVANCE OF THE VISA  
LIBERALISATION PROCESS?**

**Alexandra STIGLMAYER**

Project Director, Visa Liberalisation Project,  
European Stability Initiative, Brussels

**Gerald KNAUS**

ESI Chairman / Carr Centre Fellow, Harvard

*The session is an opportunity for participants to discuss the visa liberalisation process for the Western Balkans. What is its relevance for the European integration process in the longer term? What has worked well, what hasn't? Can the approach be replicated in other areas of EU law and standards? Could it lead to a more dynamic integration process?*

1900-2200

Informal Dinner at Luden Amsterdam  
Spuistraat 304-306 - 1012 VX Amsterdam

**Tuesday 24 November** Departures