



**Hanns  
Seidel  
Stiftung**

The Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung  
has the pleasure of inviting you to a

Panel Discussion  
on

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**“Islam and the Western World:  
Joint Challenges for a Partnership”**

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**Wednesday, 16 April 2008**

**12.00 -15.00 p.m.**

Embassy of Germany  
to the Kingdom of Belgium

Rue Jacques Lalaing 8-14  
1000 Brussels

With the kind support of the Embassy of  
the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of  
Belgium

## Programme

- 12.00 p.m. Registration and lunch buffet
- 01.00 p.m. **Opening and Introduction:**  
**Dr. Ingo FRIEDRICH, MEP**  
*Quaestor and Member of the Bureau of the  
European Parliament,  
Member of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung*
- 01.15 p.m. **Key Note Speech:**  
**Dr. Mohamed KERROU**  
*Professor for Sociology  
University of Tunis*
- 01.45 p.m. **Panel Discussion:**  
*Moderator:*  
**Martin KASTLER**  
*Head of Department Development Policy HSS*  
*Participants:*  
**H.E. Prof. Dr. Reinhard BETTZUEGE**  
*Ambassador of Germany to the Kingdom of  
Belgium*  
**Dr. Michael KÖHLER**  
*Professor at the College of Europe  
Head of Unit DG MARE  
"International Affairs and Law of the Sea"*  
*Statements followed by Q & A session*
- 3.00 p.m. End of the conference

## Background

In times of globalisation and cross-border problems such as climate change, migration, global threats through diseases, cyber criminality, radicalisation, etc. Europe should take up the chance to face these challenges in a joint effort with partners around the world. When it comes to Islamic countries discussion often centres on the differences. However, global changes make it necessary to rethink this approach and come up with new concepts: Partnership instead of competition, cooperation instead of isolation, joint action instead of unilateralist movements.

For 2008 the EU has announced the year of intercultural dialogue and has thus made an attempt to promote communication between cultures and to create a better mutual understanding. But instead of trying to assimilate the mostly different notions by being overly tolerant it might be more useful to promote respect for the respective culture in order to create a fundament for a better cooperation.

To face the global challenges in a joint and concerted way could be the key to a peaceful co-existence of different cultures as well as to a fair development. It is not adjustment, but mutual respect for a different culture that creates the basis for a truthful cooperation.

With this event the HSS aims to contribute to the current debate about ways of cooperation between Christian-occidental countries and Islamic countries in a globalised world, in which challenges are not restricted by geographical, ethnical or religious borders.

### **Conference language is English.**

Translation into French and German will be provided.

Registration by returning the registration form or by e-mail-reply to:  
registration@hss.de or Fax: +32 (0)2 230 70 27.

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### **Organisers and contacts:**

#### **Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung – Brussels Office**

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