



## *Diasporas and Conflict Transformation*

The Final Conference of the DIASPEACE and INFOCON projects was held on December 16-18, 2010, at Fondation Universitaire premises in Brussels. It was a *climate neutral conference*. Below, you find the conference programme and a selection of photos from the conference (by Cornelia Smet).

### Conference Programme

**December 16, 2010**

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b>Welcome on behalf of the organisers</b> Pekka Virtanen (DIASPEACE) and Stephan Kampelmann (INFOCON).
<b>9:50</b>	<b>Speaker from the European Commission</b> Angela Liberatore (DG Research).
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Diaspora and Recovery</b> Academic keynote speech by Nicholas Van Hear, Senior Researcher at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University of Oxford.
<b>10:45</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>DIASPEACE: Presentation of the project's research findings</b> Liisa Laakso (University of Helsinki), Project Leader of DIASPEACE, with Gebre Yntiso (Addis Ababa University), Mahdi Abdile (JYU) and Andrea Warnecke (BICC).
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>INFOCON: Presentation of the project's research findings</b> Elise Féron (Kent University), Scientific Director of INFOCON.
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>15:15</b>	<b>Diaspora and conflicts - what have we learned, where are still gaps in research?</b> Panel discussion about the scientific results of DIASPEACE and INFOCON <b>Chair:</b> Liisa Laakso (University of Helsinki) <b>Participants:</b> Guenther Schlee, (MPI/Halle), Kassahun Berhanu (Addis Ababa University), Petra Mezzetti (CeSPI/Rome), Nicholas Van Hear (University of Oxford), Jan Hanrath (University Duisburg-Essen), Jolle Demmers (Utrecht University)
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Conclusions from the panel</b> Presented by Liisa Laakso
<b>17:30</b>	<b>End of first day</b>

**December 17, 2010**

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Cindy Horst (DIASPEACE) and Stephan Kampelmann (INFOCON)
<b>9:45</b>	<b>Keynote speech from the European Commission</b> Jeremy Lester (DG Development)
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>

**Parallel sessions**

<b>10:45</b>	<p><b>Session 1</b> <b>Serbia-Kosovo-EU Dialogue</b></p> <p><b>An exchange with representatives from Serbia, Kosovo, members of the Serb and Kosovo-Albanian diaspora and EU officials.</b>  <b>Moderator:</b> Hugh Miall (Kent University, Conflict Analysis Research Center)  <b>Participants:</b> Alexandar Mitic (Project Director at the European Center for Development and Peace in Belgrade), Vladimir Radomirovic (Analyst at Center for Strategic Alternatives), Ylli Hoxha (Foreign Policy Club Prishtina), Blerim Mustafa (Co-ordination Council of Albanians in the Netherlands), Liridon Shurdani (Kosova Young Lawyers), Lawrence Meredith (DG Enlargement).</p> <p>The objective of the session was to look ahead to the future of the region, and the role of transnational communities, exploring Kosovo-Albanian and Serb approaches to what the EU might do, and EU responses and conditions for extending European agreements in the region.</p>
<b>10:45</b>	<p><b>Session 2.</b> <b>Participation of Diasporas in Peacebuilding and Development</b></p> <p><b>European Launch of 'Participation of Diasporas in Peacebuilding and Development. A Handbook for Practitioners and Policymakers'</b>  Cindy Horst (PRIO) with Päivi Pirkkalainen (JYU) and Giulia Sinatti (ADPC). Comments by Shinuna Karume-Robert (UNPOS), Mohamed Baasaweyne (HIRDA), Saed Guled (IOM).</p> <p>In this session, participants received a copy of a handbook on how participation of diasporas in peacebuilding and development can be facilitated. The handbook is written mainly for European practitioners and policymakers, and is bringing together lessons learned from various European countries in order to facilitate an exchange of knowledge and experience between different European actors. During the session, the handbook was presented and its main authors engaged in a debate with the audience.</p>

<b>13:00</b>	<b>Research, civil society and conflict resolution</b> Speech by Jean-Michel Baer (DG RTD)
<b>13:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>15:00</b>	<b>Research on diasporas - how can it inform policy makers and civil society actors?</b> <b>Panel discussion</b> chaired by Jochen Hippler (Duisburg-Essen University) <b>Participants:</b> Jeremy Lester (DG Development), Cindy Horst (PRIO), Peter Croll (BICC), Awil Mohamoud (ADPC), Fantu Cheru (NAI), and Tamara Keating (IOM).
<b>17:00</b>	<b>Conclusions from the panel</b> Presented by Jochen Hippler
<b>17:30</b>	<b>End of official programme</b>

## Side Events

<b>December 16-18</b>	<p><b>Photo exposition</b></p> <p>During the conference, David Brulotte from the Canadian photo agency “Stigmat” exhibited a series of portraits he has taken with <a href="#">diaspora communities all over Europe</a>.</p>
<b>December 17</b>	<p><b>Intra-/ Inter-Rwandan Dialogue</b></p> <p>Parallel to the official conference programme, a session of the “Highly Inclusive Intra-Rwandan Dialogue” was held at a location in Brussels. The Intra-Rwandan Dialogue was founded by Isidore Munyakazi, a Tutsi residing the United States, and Elysee Ndayisaba, a Hutu residing in Belgium. The goal was to engage in dialogue with the aim of creating ‘true mutual understanding’ in order to arrive ‘at common interpretations of a given matter.’ It was stressed that arriving at a common interpretation doesn’t mean that the parties involved in the dialogue always have to agree with each other; rather, they need to have the same interpretation of the matter they disagree on... Dialogue differs from reconciliation because the latter implies re-establishing harmony among the people who have previously been divided by conflict, harmony that has been regained by asking for and granting forgiveness. Participants included Hutu, Tutsi and Twa individuals from political parties and Rwandan civil organisations from the diaspora in African countries, European countries (Belgium, Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden), and from the United States of America and Canada. The Intra/Inter-Rwandan Dialogue is discussed in <a href="#">INFOCON Deliverable 3</a>. For more information about the initiative email to <a href="mailto:dirhi2010[at]yahoo.fr">dirhi2010[at]yahoo.fr</a>.</p>
<b>December 18</b>	<p><b>Civil Society workshop on dialogue, lobbying and reconciliation in conflict and post-conflict environments</b></p> <p>Drawing on the INFOCON Civil Society Mousebook, the workshop explored the issues of dialogue, lobbying, and reconciliation work for transnational Civil Society Organisations. Invited were civil society representatives of the diasporas from the Great Lakes region, as well as members of the Kosovo-Albanian, Serbian, Kurdish and Turkish diaspora. The workshop took place on December 18, 2010 and was moderated by Prof. Hugh Miall (Kent University, Conflict Analysis Research Center).</p>



## Photo Gallery



**Stephan Kampelmann (INFOCON), Elise Féron (Kent University), Pekka Virtanen (DIASPEACE), Liisa Laakso (Helsinki University) and Angela Liberatore (EC/DG RTD), at CDMA Atrium**



**Jean-Michel Baer (the European Commission/DG RTD) giving his speech at CDMA Atrium**



**Guenther Schlee** (Max Planck Institute), **Peter Croll** (Bonn International Center for Conversion), **Mahdi Abdile** (University of Jyväskylä) and **Shinuna Karume-Robert** (UN Political Office for Somalia)



**Mohamed Baasaweyne** (HIRDA) and **Awil Mohamoud** (African Diaspora Policy Centre)



**Angela Liberatore (EC/DG RTD) with Petra Mezzetti (Centro Studi di Politica Internazionale) and Anita**



**Participants enjoying dinner at Maison des Cultures de Saint Gilles (Photo David Brulotte)**