



## British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Newsletter November 2013

A busy period after the summer recess, including a successful outward visit to Bosnia & Herzegovina and 129th Assembly in Geneva, culminated in BGIPU hosting an International Parliamentary Seminar on Drug Policy Reform attended by some 50 parliamentarians from 30 countries from Europe, Latin America and West Africa. The event again underscored the unique ability of BGIPU to facilitate substantive inter-parliamentary discussions on current international issues, particularly to ensure the parliamentary voice is heard clearly as part of the global debate.

With overseas delegations to Argentina and Ethiopia preparing to depart, and an inward visit from Haiti shortly after, we are also well advanced in preparations for our Annual General Meeting on 4 December where a new Executive Committee will be elected. In advance of that meeting, we have published on our website the 2013 Annual Report, linked to the AGM page below, and we will be distributing this in hard copy very shortly.

Rick Nimmo  
Director, BGIPU

### Annual General Meeting

4 December 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The Annual General Meeting of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will be held on Wednesday 4 December 2013 from 1600 – 1700 in the Attlee Suite, Portcullis House when the 2013 Annual Report and the Financial Statements will be presented. There will be an election for the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee for the 2013/2014 term and we are looking for Members to step forward to be nominated for a number of positions. Please follow the link to read more.

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### International Parliamentary Seminar on Drug Reform Policy

28 October 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The BGIPU hosted a seminar in Westminster on Drug Policy Reform from 28 to 30 October. Around 50 members from 30 parliaments from Latin American, West African and Europe attended along with a range of expert speakers and observers. There will be a full report on our website in the next week so please keep checking.

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## Constitutional challenges and EU take centre stage in visit to Bosnia & Herzegovina

- by *BGIPU*



As part of ongoing work in the Balkans and Bosnia in particular, this was a visit for parliamentarians to see for themselves the issues and concerns surrounding the area. The programme was extremely busy for the 5 days we were there and we met many politicians and visited not only Sarajevo but Mostar and Banja Luka.

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## IPU Round-table discussion: Parliamentarians, a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty

10 October 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The IPU convened its first meeting to specifically address abolition of the death penalty in Geneva on 10 October 2013 marking the World Day Against the Death Penalty. The meeting was convened in cooperation with the International Commission Against the Death Penalty (ICDP), a body founded in Spain in 2010, which brings together a number of distinguished abolitionists who have held high office in governments around the world. The discussions centred on the difficulty of working for abolition in a climate of fear about violent crime, and resulting strong public support for the death penalty, and also debated the prevalent use of the death penalty in Islamic countries.

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## UK Delegation makes strong contribution to outcomes of the 129th IPU Assembly

7 October 2013 - by *BGIPU*



The 129th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly took place in Geneva, from 7 to 9 October 2013 and was attended by nearly 1200 participants, including 580 parliamentarians from 131 countries.

Members of the UK delegation played very prominent roles in the proceedings through chairing key committees, presentations to Standing Committees and bilateral exchanges. The UK's active role was recognised by BGIPU Chair Robert Walter being elected to the IPU Executive Committee.

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## Meeting between senior members of the Syrian National Coalition and UK Parliamentarians

5 September 2013 - by *BGIPU*

The BGIPU in conjunction with the FCO, facilitated a meeting between senior members of the Syrian National Coalition of Opposition and Revolutionary Forces and UK Parliamentarians on Thursday 5th September. The visit of the delegation from the Syrian National Coalition followed just a week after the vote in the Commons on UK



responses to the situation in Syria.

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#### BGIPU FORTHCOMING LOOK

The BGIPU have a number of activities planned as follows;

- BGIPU Parliamentary Hearing at the UN on Re-thinking sustainable development, New York | 14-15 November 2013
- BGIPU Inward Delegation from Haiti | 18 - 22 November 2013
- BGIPU AGM | 1600 – 1700 | 4 December 2013 | Attlee Suite, PCH
- BGIPU Inward delegations from Cote D'Ivoire and Russia in early 2014
- BGIPU Outward delegations to Armenia and Poland in the February recess

If you would like to register your interest in any of the above events or would like further information please contact the Secretariat

BGIPU

Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 0AA | Tel: 00 44 (0)20 7219 3011 | Fax: 00 44 (0)20 7219 8780