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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

My assignment to FES New York comes to an end this month. I want to thank you for your friendship and camaraderie during my time here since September 2008. It has been an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to serve FES in New York, which is truly a fascinating and challenging post to work and to live in. I deeply value the goodwill and support you so kindly extended to me and our work during this period and the trust you put in us. It has been a real asset and allowed us to jointly work for strengthening and enhancing just economic and social development, peace and security, and the reform of global governance.

I hope you continue to extend your support and collaboration to my successor Michèle Auga. I am sorry that I will not have time to say goodbye to each and every one personally, but I invite you all to take part in our special event on May 29.

My next assignment will be as Head of FES Israel, based in Tel Aviv. I will move on during the summer and I look forward to the different challenges waiting there for me in a region that has undergone dramatic changes in recent years.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Puschra". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Werner Puschra

Director
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung - New York Office

New Publication

"Looking to the Future of the Arms Trade Treaty"

Katherine Prizeman
FES Perspective, April 2013

After more than one decade of preparations and negotiations, the UN General Assembly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April 2013. The ATT sets important precedents for working towards the goals of prohibiting arms transfers to countries where there is serious risk of violations of human rights and humanitarian law and where arms could potentially thwart peace and security. In addition, the adopted treaty underlines the significance of greater transparency and accountability in global arms trade. However, this publication highlights various shortcomings and loopholes of the ATT. Despite the potential the treaty bears, it remains rather symbolic and normative in meaning. The treaty does not reflect what the majority of states had originally called for, but is, through a consensus-driven process, confined to agreements on the lowest common denominator. More importantly, the adoption of the treaty is not a victory in-and-of-itself, but merely the first step in a long process ranging from ratification, effective work of the Conference of States Parties, to robust implementation. The author emphasizes the importance of securing the rapid entry into force of the ATT and of safeguarding the participation of the largest arms-trading nations. Otherwise, the ATT will stay a rather imperfect treaty failing to counteract the severe consequences of illicit and unregulated arms trade.

[Publication](#)

Upcoming Event

"Strengthening the Relationship between UN Member States and Civil Society"
(by Invitation Only)

May 29, 2013, 6:00-9:00 pm

Ali Baba's Terrace, 862 Second Avenue

FES New York organizes a special event to bid farewell to Dr. Werner Puschra, and to welcome the new Executive Director, Michèle Auga. This event features perspectives on "Strengthening the Relationship between UN Member States and Civil Society".

Speakers: Ms. Barbara Adams (Senior Fellow at Global Policy Forum Europe), H.E. Mr. Saul Weisleder (Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN), Ms. Anita Nayar (Chief of the New York office of UN-Non-Governmental Liaison)

Service), and Mr. Robert Zuber (Director of Global Action to Prevent War).

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Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung | 747 Third Avenue, Suite 22B | New York | NY | 10017