



Parliamentarians for Global Action  
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global  
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires  
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

The European Parliament Group of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) cordially invites you to a breakfast meeting,

**NEW FRONTIERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY:  
Challenges for the System of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)  
and the Essential Role of the European Union (EU)**

*ASP 00G La Brasserie (Former Members' Restaurant), European Parliament  
Altiero Spinelli Building, Brussels  
Wednesday, 2 October 2019  
8:45AM—10:15 AM*

Since 1989, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) has brought together parliamentarians from around the globe to promote universal respect of human rights and human dignity under the Rule of Law, advancing the vision of a *Rules-Based International Order* in which impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community will not be accepted. Within the framework of its [International Law and Human Rights Programme](#), PGA has worked for the establishment, universality, and effective operation of the [International Criminal Court](#) (ICC). As a result of the mobilization of our members, PGA's Campaign for the Rome Statute of the ICC has contributed to 77 of the 124 ratifications to date of the Rome Statute,<sup>1</sup> and 36 domestic implementation packages. PGA united its parliamentary forces with the most active civil society organizations, including Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and No Peace Without Justice: Their joint efforts with more than 2000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to establish the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), a driving force since 1995 of the International Justice movement.

**The European Union has played an indispensable role in the fight against impunity and the creation of the Rome Statute of the ICC system**, as a global actor and the world's biggest donor, founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. The European Parliament has consistently indicated the direction to be taken by all relevant EU institutions in the landmark framework of the fight against impunity for mass atrocity crimes.

While significant achievements have been obtained in the last three decades, there are numerous **challenges** that need to be addressed by the EU and all relevant actors at national, regional and international level:

- 1) The ICC is under attack by the United States, the Russian Federation and other powers that, as of today, have decided not to join the first permanent jurisdiction aimed at putting an end to impunity.
- 2) The UN Security Council failed to support the mandate of the ICC when it referred matters to the jurisdiction of the Court, namely the situations of Darfur/Sudan and Libya. The Security Council failed to refer to the jurisdiction of the Court the most serious situations of mass-atrocity crimes (e.g. Iraq/Syria, Myanmar, Yemen). These repeated failures have had negative repercussions for the ICC and gave the impression to belligerents that they can operate in total impunity-zones, as demonstrated by the inhumane escalation of armed conflict in Yemen and the most recent attacks on industrial targets in Saudi Arabia.
- 3) The ICC and national jurisdictions of States Parties to the Rome Statute, including all EU Member States, generated a limited number of cases against alleged perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, perpetuating an impunity-gap that detracts from the deterrent-effect of the Rome Statute system against impunity.

Against this background, it is imperative for the new European Parliament, the new European Commission, and the EU as a whole to take urgent policy measures to address these and other challenges and to contribute to the realization of the EU founding principles on human rights, democracy, peace and stability.

This meeting is an open-ended interactive dialogue. A light breakfast will be served.

**Please confirm your attendance [HERE](#)**  
or via email to Ms. Frederika Schweighoferova, PGA (The Hague) at [schweighoferova@pgaction.org](mailto:schweighoferova@pgaction.org) .

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<sup>1</sup> Including two States Parties that subsequently withdrew from the Statute, Burundi and The Philippines.

## DRAFT AGENDA

- 8:45-8:55      **Welcome and Introduction to the Briefing**  
Ms. Julie WARD, MEP (United Kingdom), *PGA Member*  
Dr. David DONAT CATTIN, PGA Secretary-General
- 8:55-9:05      **Opening Remarks on The European Parliament's Human Rights Strategy with specific reference to the fight against impunity for atrocity-crimes**  
*Discussant:* Mr. Fabio Massimo CASTALDO, MEP (Italy), EP Vice-President, *PGA Member*
- 9:05-9:25      **Open Discussion, Part I**  
The European Parliament's Role in Preventing Impunity: A Legal & Moral Imperative  
*Commentary:* Ms. Lotte LEICHT, EU Director, Human Rights Watch
- 9:25-9:45      **Open Discussion, Part II**  
Next Generation Challenges: International criminal and humanitarian law in the context of cyber-warfare with specific focus on the situation in Ukraine/Russia  
*Discussant:* Mr. Urmas PAET, MEP (Estonia), *PGA Member*
- 9:45-10:00      **Open Discussion, Part III**  
Next steps for the ICC toward universality and effectiveness: Current issues of Court reform and developments toward universal ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute  
*Discussant:* Dr. David DONAT CATTIN, Secretary-General, PGA
- 10:00-10:15      **Closing Remarks: Action Points**

CLOSE OF PROGRAM