**Speaker Biographies**

**Is the Chinese Leadership Ready for Dialogue? Perspectives on the Uyghur Issue**

European Parliament, Brussels  
Altiero Spinelli Building, Room 5G1  
Tuesday, 17 December 2013  
3.00 – 6.30pm

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**Niccolò Rinaldi**

MEP, Vice-Chair of Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe

Niccolò Rinaldi has a degree in political science and is currently a Member of the European Parliament. He was an information officer for Afghanistan from 1990 to 1991 and later became a political advisor at the European Parliament. He has served as the deputy Secretary-General of the ALDE political group since 2000.

He is a member of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, and for relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia. He is also a member of the Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia, as well as the Committee on International Trade.

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**Marino Busdachin**

UNPO General Secretary

After serving as UNPO Executive Director from 2003-2005, Mr Busdachin was elected as UNPO General Secretary in 2005. He was a member of the Extra-ordinary executive Board of the Transnational Radical Party (2000-2002), and is currently a member of the General Council of TRP. He led the TRP to recognition by the UN as an NGO of the first category, and led and coordinated the TRP in the former Yugoslavia (1991-1993) and in the Soviet Union (1989-1993). As a lifelong nonviolent activist, he founded the NGO “Non c’è Pace Senza Giustizia” in Italy (1994-1999) as well as founding and serving as President of No Peace Without Justice USA (1995-2000). Mr Busdachin campaigned for the establishment of the International Criminal Court.

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**Rebiya Kadeer**

World Uyghur Congress President

Rebiya Kadeer has promoted the human and cultural rights of the Uyghur community in China for decades – her work forcing her into exile. She has continuously worked on providing opportunities for underprivileged Uyghurs and urged the government of the People’s Republic of China to end the oppressive policies, which disadvantage Uyghurs in East Turkestan. Rebiya Kadeer was imprisoned from 2000-6 for her relentless political and human rights activism, but continued her important work in USA, while in exile following her release. In 2004, she was awarded the Rafto Prize for Human Rights, and she has recently been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. In 2012, she was included in the list of ‘500 Most Influential Muslims’. She has also authored the book ‘Dragon Fighter: One Woman’s Epic Struggle for Peace With China’. 

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**www.niccolorinaldi.it**  
**www.europarl.europa.eu**  
**www.unpo.org**  
**www.uyghurcongress.org**  
**www.uyghurcongress.org**
Haluk Ahmet Gümüş

Member of Turkish Parliament, CHP Party (Social Democrats)

Mr. Haluk Ahmet Gümüş was elected to the Turkish Grand National Assembly as a member of the Republican People’s Party in the 2011 general election representing Balikesir. He served as a member of Planning and Budgeting Committee from 2011 to 2013. Now, he is a member of the Southeast European Cooperation Process Parliamentary Assembly Turkish Group. In the Shadow Government formed by the Republican People’s Party (CHP), Mr. Gümüş is responsible for the Ministry of Development, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency and Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities. Previously, he had served as a member of the Special Expert’s Commission of Turkish State Planning Organisation and worked as a Senior Executive Manager in the private sector.

He graduated from the Dokuz Eylül University in İzmir with a degree in industrial relations. He obtained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Master of European Community at the Istanbul University. He also has a degree in Geopolitics from Université De Paris VIII and in Economic Analysis from the Université Paris I Panteon Sorbonne. He has published many articles about the new world order, world politics, international and regional integrations and China’s economic development.

Mahesh Ranjan Debata

Center for Inner Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata is currently working as an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. His main research interests include China, its neighbourhood policies, Central Asia, as well as the Uyghur issue and Chinese nationalities policies. He is member of the Editorial Board of a prestigious journal called International Journal of Business Anthropology. Dr. Debata is the author of a book entitled China’s Minorities: Ethno-Religious Separatism in Xinjiang. He has also authored some two dozen scholarly papers published at the national and international level. He has travelled extensively across the USA, China, Central Asia, Turkey and Europe in connection with his research work on the Uyghurs.

Bruno J. De Cordier

Ghent University, Programme coordinator at Conflict Research Group

Bruno J. De Cordier is a professor at the Department of Conflict and Development Studies at Ghent University and is a member of the Conflict Research Group at this department. His research interests include, amongst others: identity questions, resistance movements and, geographically, southern Eurasia (the Central Asian region), where he has worked and lived for several years and returns regularly. This has also brought him to the region of Xinjiang on several occasions. He has authored several monographs and a series of articles for specialized journals, as well as for the wider audience.
Ulrich Delius

Society for Threatened Peoples International

A long time member and Asia and Africa desk officer of the German Society for Threatened Peoples, Ulrich Delius is an expert in the human rights of threatened and persecuted ethnical and religious minorities, nationalities and indigenous peoples. Amongst his publications, he is the author of the report “Human Rights Violations in Hamburg’s sister city Shanghai” and has performed important work on Tibet and Xinjiang including reports into the demolition of the Uyghur city of Kashgar. He has been campaigning on behalf of the Uyghurs for decades.

Kilic Bugra Kanat

Penn State University, Erie

Kilic Bugra Kanat is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Penn State University, Erie and a research scholar at the SETA Foundation in Washington, D.C. He received his doctoral degree in Political Science from Syracuse University. He holds a master’s degree in Political Science from Syracuse University and a master’s in International Affairs from Marquette University. Dr. Kanat also holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Conflict Resolution.

Dr. Kanat’s writings have appeared in Foreign Policy, Insight Turkey, Middle East Policy, Arab Studies Quarterly, Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, The Diplomat, Middle East Monitor, Mediterranean Quarterly, and Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs. He also regularly contributes op-eds to Star, Sabah, Today’s Zaman, Zaman Daily, Radikal Daily, and Hurriyet Daily News, and frequently appears on TRT, Kanal 24, TRT Haber and Ahaber. He was also selected for the Future Foreign Policy Leaders of the Foreign Policy Initiative.