The conference on joining up EU and US policy towards Eritrea and the Horn for the promotion of Democracy and Human Rights will start tomorrow, Monday 09, 2009 in Brussels.

Mr. Woldesus Ammar, Chairman of the Joint Leadership Committee of EPM, EDP and EPP which are expected to form one party in the coming month of December will be one amongst many who will present a paper on the topic Eritrea’s Options for Democratisation.

The conference is organized by European External Policy Advisors, an NGO based in Europe, and the two days conference work plan will be as follows.

**Joining up EU and US policy towards Eritrea and the Horn for the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights**

**November 9 – 10, 2009**

**Scotland House, Place Schuman, Brussels**

9 November

9.00 **Welcome** by Luisa Morgantini, former Vice-President of the European Parliament

**Opening Addresses**

Koos Richelle, Director-General of EuropeAid, European Commission

Robert Houdek, former Ambassador to Ethiopia and Eritrea, United States

Kjell Magne Bondevik, Former Prime Minister of Norway and President of the Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights

Bereket Habte Selassie, Distinguished Professor of African Studies and Professor of Law at the University of North Carolina and former Chair of the Constitutional Commission of Eritrea

**Setting the Scene**

Luisa Morgantini (Chair)

Elisabeth Chyrum, Human Rights Defender, Director of Human Rights Concern – Eritrea

Tsedal Yohannes, Testimony

Message from Congressman Royce, United States

Alex De Waal*, Fellow Harvard University and member of the Mbeki Commission
Dan Connell, Author and former journalist, Distinguished Lecturer in journalism and African politics at Simmons College, Boston
11.00 **Key Note Addresses: EU and US policy to the Horn in Transition**
Kathleen Ferrier, MP* (Chair)
Roger Moore, Director Horn of Africa, Directorate-General Development, European Commission
Karl E Wycoff*, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Horn, State Department
H.E. Ambassador Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament
13.00 Lunch
14.30 **Regional Perspectives for Democratisation and Promotion of Human Rights in the Horn Region**
Guy Poppe (Chair)
Invited Ambassadors will be asked to provide perspectives on the regional views for democratisation and promotion of human rights in the Horn
15.30 Break
16.00 **Panel: Human Rights Violations in the Region and Violations of International Law**
Paddy Maguinness (Chair)
Selam Kidane, Democracy and Human Rights Advocate
Noel Joseph, Human Rights Advocate
Daniel Rezene Mekonnen, PhD, Fellow Human Rights Centre, University of Gent
Jonathan Elliott, Human Rights Watch, Africa Advocacy Director
Giampaolo Calchi Novati, Head of the Africa Programme at ISPI, professor, University of Pavia, History of Africa.
Emma Achilli, EU Human Rights and Democracy Initiative, European Commission
Eva-Britt Svensson, MEP, Sweden, European Parliament
17.30 Abdulrahman Sayed, Presentation media committee and conference statement drafting committee

10 November
9.00 **Panel: Eritrea’s options for Democratisation**
Mehret Ghebreyesus (Chair)
Woldeyesus Ammar, Chairman, Joint Leadership Committee (EDP/EPM/EPP).
Suleiman A. Hussein, Citizens for Democratic Rights in Eritrea (CDRIE)
Dawit Mesfin, Researcher/Birkbeck College
Judith Sargentini, MEP, Netherlands and former democracy activist Southern Africa
Anthony Carroll, Vice President, Manchester Trade Ltd, policy specialist on the Horn, Washington, USA
Tom Vens, Eritrea desk, European Commission
Guillaume Lacroix*, European Council, Africa
12.00 Break
14.00 **Panel: The Horn Region options for Democratisation**
Abdulrahman Sayed, Researcher on Federalism, Founding and Executive member of Citizens for Democratic Rights in Eritrea – CDRIE (Chair)
Thijs Berman, MEP
Eshetu Bekele, Executive Director, Poverty Action Network of Civil Society Organisations (PANE) in Ethiopia
Mohamed Ahmed Jama, Director of the Somali Organisation for Community Development Activities (SOCDA) in Mogadishu
Professor Gaim Kibreab, London South Bank University
Karl E Wycoff*, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Horn, State Department
Jeremy Lester, Head of Unit Horn of Africa Region, Directorate-General Development, European Commission
15.30 Break

16.00 Presentation of draft Conference Statement
Closing addresses:
Dan Connell
Louisa Morgantini
Bereket Habte Selassi
*not confirmed