



Dear Member Organisations

ZEN is happy to confirm that the announced member organisation conference will take place as planned on 25 February. Continuing from the precedence set by MS-AA Denmark with membership involvement, FOS Belgium has taken up the challenge and will host it in its offices in the Agoragalerij, Grasmarkt 105, right in the heart of Brussels (one minute from the Grand Place).

The meeting will assess the current political situation in Zimbabwe highlighting the achievements of the current Government of National Unity after its two years in power this month. The meeting will particularly look at the prospects of upcoming elections and what can be done from the European side to ensure that these are free and fair. Included in that will be an assessment of the measures that the EU introduced in 2002. We will have speakers from the European Union Commission, from Zimbabwean civil society and from NGOs, including our member organisations. The speakers from Zimbabwe will include Gideon Shoko, Deputy Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, McDonald Lewanika, Coordinator of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Cephaz Zinhumwe, Susan Mutambasere, Project Lawyer at the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Kucaca Phulu, Chairperson ZimRights and Okay Machisa, Executive Director of ZimRights.

Furthermore there will be a panel to discuss the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe, following from the decision which will be taken later this month. We will have a panel with EU representatives, and representatives from Zimbabwean and European organisations that favours and that opposes the current Common Position, which includes appropriate and restrictive measures against the Government of Zimbabwe and some 200 Zimbabwean individuals.

The conference will start at 1100 hours and end at 1700 hours, so that participants would be able to fly in and out the same day. A final programme will be sent out next week.

The meeting will mainly be for member organisation representatives and of course free of charge for their representatives. The conference venue is however big so it will be open to partners and interested individuals. Outside participants will be asked for a participation fee of Euro 50 to cover meeting costs, including for the lunch.

Please indicate who will participate by 22 February to the ZEN Secretariat.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

For ZEN

For FOS

Tor-Hugne Olsen
Co-ordinator

Kwaku Acheampong
Africa Regional Desk Officer