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Issue 11

3rd Way Communique

"Thought for the Middle Brows"

A periodical Newsletter

AN ACTION ORIENTATED MOVEMENT NOT A TALKING SHOP

Round table on the political participation of immigrant and their impact in the elections to the European Parliament.

A Round table discussion took place at The Immigrant Institute Boras Sweden on 15th November 2008.

1=2

If one person votes the other parties will need 2 votes to win.

In Sweden and in most other European countries migrants from third countries lack the right to vote in the European parliament, something which should be changed. Several participants at the

meeting highlighted the importance of the right to vote in order to feel included in society. The right to vote alone is, nevertheless, not sufficient. It is also vital that migrants take active part in the

local political life, and in this regard the political parties play a crucial role in terms of opening their door and greeting newcomers welcome.

Participants included Multicultural Organisation from Great Britain, Finland, Slovakia, researchers and university lecturers in Sweden, local political

representatives from Swedish political parties – Folkpartiet (Liberal), Vanster Partiet (Left Party) and Socialdemokratiska Partiet (Social Democracy).

WELCOME ON BOARD NEW MEMBER

HORIZONTY

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

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BRITISH MIGRANTS NOT A LIABILITY BUT AN ASSET

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SEEKING A NEW LIFE IN SPAIN HAS SURGED BY 12 % AS BRITONS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS THE COUNTRY'S FOURTH-LARGEST IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY.

FIGURES RELEASED BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT REVEALED THAT THE NUMBER OF BRITISH EXPATRIATES REGISTERED AS RESIDENT IN SPAIN HAS RISEN TO 352,000 AT THE START OF 2008. THAT GAVE SPAIN BIGGER BRITISH POPULATION THAN AL BUT EIGHT LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT CENSUS FIGURES.

MOST BRITONS THERE ARE OF WORKING AGE, THOUGH THEIR HOLIDAY HOMES, ARE DISAPPEARING THIS YEAR AS PROPERTY BUBBLES BURST IN BOTH SPAIN AND BRITAIN.

BRITISH VOTERS HAVE HELPED ELECT COMPATRIOTS AS COUNCILLORS IN SOME TOWN HALLS. MARK LEWIS, A COUNCILLOR IN THE TOWN OF SAN FULGENCIO, NEAR ALICANTE, EVEN FOUND HIMSELF AS ACTING MAYOR EARLIER THIS YEAR AFTER MANY OF HIS FELLOW COUNCILLORS WERE ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF CORRUPTION.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES THE OFFICIAL SPANISH FIGURE STILL HUGELY UNDER-REPRESENTS THE REAL NUMBERS LIVING IN SPAIN. "AROUND 1 MILLION BRITONS NOW LIVE PERMANENTLY IN SPAIN", IT SAYS. THAT WOULD SUGGEST MOST BRITONS STILL REFUSE TO REGISTER FOR COUNCILS WHICH RECEIVE FUNDING ON THE BASIS THEIR REGISTERED POPULATION.

GILES TRIMLETT
MADRID SPAIN

LET MUSLIMS DO THEIR YOGA IN PEACE

I have spent much of my life trying to convince people that Islam is a moderate religion, says Farish A. Noor. It has been a hard task in recent years – one needlessly made harder by the narrow cultural dogmatism of some of my fellow Muslims. Last week, for instance, Malaysia's Fatwa Council forbade the country's Muslims from practicing yoga. The clerics seem to think that, having its origin in the Hindu religion, yoga will lead the faithful on a slippery slope to abandoning Islam. What utter nonsense. It is a harmless form of exercise, practiced by millions of people all over the world. "Sitting cross-legged does not miraculously turn me into a Hindu." Yoga has been part of the culture of South Asia for four thousand years, as popular in Muslim countries like Pakistan and Indonesia as in India. It may seem like a small, trivial thing, but it's symptomatic of a wider problem. "Malaysian Muslims are more loosely policed than ever before, with more and more laws and restrictions on how we dress, eat, speak, interact and even marry." What will these pedants think of next? "A fatwa on karate, kung fu, pilates?" Nobody voted for them, and they should stay out of our lives. How will we ever build a modern, tolerant Islam "if Muslims are not even allowed to exercise in peace?"

Daily Times (Lahore)

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