

## Annual Report 2013

### **PROFILE**

elbarlament was founded during 2013 by a group of experts on the premise that parliaments, assemblies, governments, administrations and civil society in transition require a specific and innovative quality of technical assistance and consulting service, taking into consideration research and evaluation of technical assistance best practices. The consultancy is based in Berlin and has been established as a limited company under German law.

elbarlament is an independent, non-partisan and impartial organisation providing technical assistance, expertise and research to support parliaments, assemblies, governments, administrations and civil society in developing their full potential in order to contribute to good governance, the rule of law and the prosperity of the people they represent through strong, open and effective legislatures as well as other parliamentary instruments and parliamentary-driven processes.

We draw expertise from a wide range of partnerships and a multi-national pool of experts covering multiple areas - from general democratisation, rule of law public administration reform issues to sectoral policies such as budgets and planning, security sector oversight, human rights, youth and women participation.

### **DEBATE**

We are contributing to the debate on democratization, the rule of law and accountability as well as the developments in partner countries, European and international cooperation.

In September, elbarlament participated in the workshop “International Advice and Support for Parliamentary Administrations” organised by the German Bundestag in Berlin. We were invited to present a statement on the conceptual aspects of international support and advice for parliamentary administrations, the organisation and implementation of projects as well as prospects and potential cooperation. The workshop provided an opportunity to introduce elbarlament as a new provider to partners from the European Parliament, the French and Polish Parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UNDP, GIZ, IRZ and the German political foundations.

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In October, we introduced elbarlament's expertise and activities to members and officials of the European Parliament, officials from the European External Action Service and partners from the consultancy, think tank and civil society communities in Brussels.

In November, elbarlament contributed to the Franco-German Forum on "L'Union européenne et la Méditerranée: Quelles attentes réciproques, quelles perspectives communes?" at the Genshagen Foundation near Berlin. Under the auspices of Norbert Lammert, President of the German Bundestag and Claude Bartolone, President of the French Assemblée Nationale some 100 representatives from politics, business, academia, civil society and media discussed the repercussions of the developments in the Arab region since 2011 for both the countries south and north of the Mediterranean.

### **COUNTRIES**

#### ***Egypt***

Throughout the year, elbarlament experts held several workshops for the staff of the People's Assembly in Cairo as part of the Parliamentary Support Programme. In August, elbarlament and inmedio Berlin jointly organised a round-table with representatives of the El-Sadat Association on the situation in Egypt and the progress of the programme. The event in elbarlament's premises brought together some 40 representatives from the Egyptian embassy, the German Foreign Office, the Bundestag, civil society organization working in Egypt and members of the elbarlament expert community.

In September, elbarlament experts were invited by the National Council for Women to provide political-legal advice for promoting women's rights in the constitutional reform process. In October, experts from elbarlament and IRZ (Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Rechtliche Zusammenarbeit e.V.), briefed senior members of the newly created Ministry for Transitional Justice in Cairo. This was followed in December by a presentation of elbarlament on the parliamentary aspects of transitional justice at an IRZ conference in Cairo.

The conference "Egypt in Transition: Supporting Democracy through Dialogue" was organised by Egmont, the Belgian Royal Institute for International Relations, the European Forum for International Mediation and Dialogue – MediatEUr - and elbarlament. The event

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took place in Brussels on 16 and 17 December. The dialogue brought together Egyptian representatives from the government, political sector, religious institutions, business, academia and civil society at the Egmont Palace in Brussels. Participants discussed the current situation in Egypt and generated ideas for a democratic transition; as well as Europe's contribution to this process.

### ***Iraq (Kurdistan)***

Following an invitation of the Representative to Germany of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Dilshad Barzani, elbarlament organised an informational visit to Erbil from 25 to 29 May. The purpose of the visit was to establish and first contacts and to explore possible areas of cooperation with the Kurdistan Parliament-Iraq (KPI). Arsalan Baiz, President of the KPI, and the staff of the KPI Research Centre expressed their wishes and willingness for a close cooperation.

In July, we welcomed a delegation from the KPI Research Centre in Berlin, in the framework of a visit organized by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation. elbarlament introduced the members of the delegation to the international relations unit of the Bundestag and facilitated meetings with staff working for Members of Parliament and a political group. In September, elbarlament signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kurdistan Parliament for parliamentary support activities. As cooperation partner for the project, elbarlament established preliminary contact with the Parliament of the State of Baden-Württemberg. Following the general elections in Kurdistan in autumn, project activities are planned to begin in spring 2014.

### ***Libya***

Experts of elbarlament were contracted by the International Management Group (IMG) on behalf of the European Union to provide expertise to the Libyan General National Council (GNC). elbarlament provided and reviewed the draft rules of procedures of the GNC and led two workshops with the members of the legislation and constitutional committee in April and June in Tripoli.

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### *Myanmar*

Germany and the EU have declared their commitment to support the process of democratic transition in Myanmar. Against this background and drawing on the wish of the EU and Germany, in particular the Bundestag, to enhance parliamentary relations, elbarlament organised an informational visit to Myanmar from 11 to 15 March to explore possibilities for activities in the area of parliamentary support. Following the visit, the Director-General of the Union Parliament, Kyaw Soe, extended an invitation to elbarlament to carry out support activities for members and staff of the Parliament. In May, at the occasion of their visit in Berlin, elbarlament facilitated a visit to the Parliament of Berlin (Abgeordnetenhaus) for the Directors of the two houses of the Union Parliament. In June, elbarlament was invited by the German Bundestag to brief an incoming delegation of Members of the Union Parliament about the planned activities. Following a number of consultations in Germany, project activity is expected to commence in 2014.

### *Syria*

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Working Group on Economic Recovery of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People, elbarlament carried out a series of capacity-building activities for representatives of various political movements from Syria. The activities focused on enhancing the political effectiveness of representatives in parliamentary procedures and policy development. In December, a specific Women Political Leadership programme was initiated.

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Shareholders and management would like to thank especially staff, experts and advisors from partner institutions and organisations; in particular Dina Zohdi and Malte Tepe for their commitment to elbarlament, Uta Gärtner for her invaluable advice on Myanmar and Martin Weiss for generously facilitating the visit to Iraqi Kurdistan.

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