

**INVITATION
LUNCH DEBATE**

Ayotzinapa and beyond – How do the Mexican government and the European Union act on enforced disappearances in Mexico

International Human Rights Mechanisms have recently expressed the grave human rights crisis that Mexico is facing. In particular, the UN Committee on enforced disappearances concluded that this practice occurs widespread in that country. The lack of domestic law, a nationwide definition of this crime and a uniform register of disappeared people are some of the shortcomings identified that Mexico should tackle by implementing the recommendations received on this regard.

Although enforced disappearance has meanwhile been defined as a crime in 23 out of 32 federal states, there was sentencing in only 6 cases between 2006 and 2013.

The enforced disappearance of 43 prospective teachers in Iguala (Federal State of Guerrero) on September 26th 2014 – also known as the “Ayotzinapa case” - evoked a wave of protest in the Mexican population demanding an end of impunity, corruption and the complicity between state authorities and organized crime. With the report published on September 6th 2015 of the GIEI (“Grupo Interdisciplinario de Expertos Independientes”), sent to Mexico with a mandate by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, the massive deficits in the investigation and the incorrectness of the version in force of the sequence of events are proved.

During the Lunch debate, we want to discuss the European Union’s positions: What are the shortcomings that prevent the Mexican state from fulfilling its international obligations to investigate enforced disappearances and to punish the perpetrators? How is the EU planning to tackle the problem of enforced disappearances in Mexico?

Date	Wednesday, 21 October 2015, 13:00 to 14:30 (light lunch 12:30 – 13:00)
Venue	Brussels , to be communicated after confirmation
Speakers	Aldo dell'Ariccia , Head of Division, EEAS, Mexico and CA Department Estefania Torres Martínez , Member of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee Alejandra Nuño , CEDEHM, Centro de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres, Chihuahua Vidulfo Rosales , CDH de la Montaña Tlachinollan, Guerrero
Moderator	Patricia Jiménez , Director Global Dialogue Programme, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, EU Office

Conference language English and Spanish – simultaneous translation

No admittance without confirmed registration. E-mail registration only. Please send the attached reply form to: chloe.dosquet@eu.boell.org

The meeting is held under Chatham House Rule.