



**to actively rescue refugees
in the Mediterranean**

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EU Launch:

SOS MEDITERRANEE

(with Captain Klaus Vogel)

Residence Palace Restaurant
Rue de la Loi 155
B-1040 Brussels



Monday
19 October 2015
18.30-21.00

The recent **refugee** crisis has **several geographical hot spots** - one is located in the **Mediterranean** between the coast of **North African, Malta** and **Italy**. Refugees from the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa try to reach in **small boats** European territory. Thousands pay this ride with their lives. To offer a **humanitarian help** to those who otherwise would potentially lose their lives in these not seaworthy boats, on 9 May this year **civil society representatives** from different countries (like Germany, Italy and France), came together in **Berlin** to create the **European Association for the Rescue of Life in the Mediterranean Sea - SOS Mediterranean!** (<http://sosmediterranee.org/>). Since then this NGO has collected funds - among others via **Crowdfunding** (<https://www.ulule.com/sosmed/>)- to buy a **60-meters** long former Dutch pilot **ship**, which is currently renovated in a **shipyard** in **Croatia**. This **autumn** it will **start** its route along the coast of North Africa. The mid-term aim is to create a **European-wide network** of similar initiatives, in support for **Doctors of the World** (<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/>). To discuss this project with the **Brussels-based stakeholders**, **Klaus Vogel**, the **captain** of the ship has accepted to come to the capital of Europe (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03NhESLMtR4>). To show their **solidarity**, **Residence Palace-Intl press center** and **Choux de Bruxelles**, Residence Palace's catering partner (this Art Deco building from the 20ies) have offered their premises for this event **free of charge** - in addition the **profit of selling drinks** during the evening will go directly to the Foundation SOS Mediterranean.

To facilitate the organisation, you are requested to confirm your participation via schwalbahoth@gmail.com