Roundtable Discussion with Bahraini Delegation of opposition leaders
5 June 2014, 13.00-14.30, Brussels

Sheikh Ali Salman
Sheikh Ali Salman is the Secretary General of Al Wefaq National Islamic Society, Bahrain’s largest opposition party. As Secretary General of Al Wefaq he has consistently pushed for a peaceful movement towards the establishment of a democratic civil state in Bahrain and advocated direct dialogue with the Government to achieve this. He regularly urges protesters not to call for the downfall of the regime or the removal of the monarchy and condemns any acts of violence. Despite this unequivocal stance, he has been targeted on a number of occasions by the authorities, most recently at the end of December 2013 when he was detained and interrogated following a speech he made. It is unclear even now whether the charges have been dropped. Sheikh Ali was exiled in London during the 1990’s but returned to Bahrain in 2001 as part of a general amnesty against opposition figures. In 2006 he was elected to Parliament as an MP, but did not stand in 2010.

Dr. Munira Fakhro
Dr. Munira Fakhro, is a long-term human rights and democracy advocate in Bahrain, and a current member of the Waad Society Central Committee. In 1997-98, she joined the Middle East Institute at Columbia university as a visiting scholar. In 1998-99, she also was a visiting scholar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University conducting research on “Gender, Citizenship & Civil Society in the Gulf states”. In addition, she did some research for UN organizations such as UNFPA, UNDP, ILO, ESCWA, focusing on women issues. She has written numerous books and academic papers on civil society and gender issues in the Gulf region and in 2008 was awarded Arab Women of the Year for women and politics, by the Arab Women Studies Centre.

Ali Alaswad
Ali Alaswad is a leading member within Al Wefaq National Islamic Society and was an MP elected during the 2010 Parliamentary elections. He resigned in February 2011, following the crackdown on democracy protests, along with his colleagues in Al Wefaq. In the early stages of the 2011 uprising he was active with the international media about the events in Bahrain. After threats to his home he moved to London in June 2011, where he has been continuing his political activity in raising the issue of democracy in Bahrain. In 2013 he gave evidence to the UK Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Inquiry into UK relations with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Abdulnabi Salman
Abdulnabi Salman is the Secretary General of Al Minbar Society, also known as the "Progressive Democratic Tribune". Al Minbar are to the left of Bahraini politics and took part in the 2002 Parliamentary Elections, winning 3 seats in the Parliament, although they failed to win any seats in the 2006 election. Abdulnabi Salman was also one of the 6 opposition delegates to the recent National Dialogue process.

Radhi Al-Mosawi
Radhi Al Mousawi is the Secretary General of Waad Society, also known as the National Democratic Society. They are Bahrain’s foremost leftist group, with key figures including the imprisoned Ibrahim Shariff, his wife Fareeda Ghulam, Dr. Munira Fakhro and leading human rights expert Abdulnabi Alekry. Waad formed in 2001, bringing together former leftist and human rights activists. They are second largest opposition society after Al Wefaq and a part of the Coalition known as the "National Democratic Opposition Societies". Radhi Al Mousawi was one of the 6 opposition delegates to the recent National Dialogue process.