

AGENDA

12 July

09.00 – 09.30

Registration

09.30 – 10.10

Opening Session

Abdelhak Bassou, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Senen Florensa, Chair of EuroMeSCo General Assembly

Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner, Ambassador of Spain to Morocco

Claudia Wiedey, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Morocco

10.10 – 10.30

Keynote speech by Nasser Kamel, Designated Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

10.30 – 11.00

Coffee Break ☕

11.00 – 13.00

The State of Europe and Its Impact on Euro-Mediterranean Relations

In Euro-Mediterranean fora, the focus is most often on the state of the South and Southeast part of the Mediterranean and the impact of its political, economic and security situation on the European Union. Conversely, a number of developments in Europe also affect the situation in the Southern shore, the EU's capacity of projection in the Mediterranean and ultimately the Euro-Mediterranean relations.

Chair

Mohamed Loulichki, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Speakers

Katarzyna Pelczynska-Nalecz, Director, ideaForum – a think tank of the Stefan Batory Foundation

Ibrahim ElBadawi, President, FEMISE

Iliana Olivie, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute

Gilles Bertrand, Policy Adviser, Managing Directorate for Middle East and North Africa, EEAS

Debate with participants

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Presentation of results of the EuroMeSCo research groups

Working Package: Minorities in the Middle East and North Africa Region

Chair

Salam Kawakibi, Associate Research Fellow, ARI – Arab Reform Initiative; Director, Arab Center for Research Policy Studies in Paris

Main authors

Paolo Maggiolini, Associate Research Fellow, ISPI – Italian Institute for International Political Studies
Said Bennis

Comments by

Lurdes Vidal, Director of the Arab and Mediterranean World Department, IEMed – European Institute of the Mediterranean

Working Package: The Eastern Mediterranean: New Dynamics and Potential for Cooperation

Chair

Nimrod Goren, Head of Institute, Mitvim

Main authors

Panayotis Tsakonas, Professor, ELIAMEP – Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

Ehud Eiran, Researcher, Mitvim

Muriel Asseburg, Senior Fellow, SWP – German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Comments by

Valeria Talbot, Senior Research Fellow and Co-Head of ISPI's Middle East and North Africa Centre, ISPI – I
Institute for International Political Studies

Working Package: The Future of the EU-Tunisia Partnership

Chair

Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria, Head of Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department, IEMed – European Institute of the Mediterranean

Main authors

Tasnim Abderrahim, Junior Policy Officer, ECDPM –European Centre for Development Policy Management

Silvia Colombo, Senior Researcher, IAI – Istituto di Affari Internazionali

Guillaume Van der Loo, Researcher, CEPS – Centre for European Policy Studies

15.30 – 16.00

Coffee Break ☕

16.00 – 18.00

Plugged-in sessions: Discussing latest developments in the region

13 July

09.00 – 11.00

How Southern Mediterranean Countries Engage with the EU and the Euro- Mediterranean?

Too often are Euro-Mediterranean policies understood as policies of the European Union or its member states to the Southern Mediterranean. Euro-Mediterranean analysts tend to focus therefore primarily on European policies strategies and initiatives. The idea of this session is to look into bilateral and regional policies of Southern Mediterranean countries with the underlying question of whether the European Union and the Euro-Mediterranea cooperation are priorities.

Chair

Anis Nacrou, former Head of EU Delegation to Syria

A view from

Ehab Fawzy, Assistant Minister for Multilateral Affairs and International Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eg
Omar Amghar, Director of the Department of Morocco-EU Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nabil Ammar, Director General Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tunisia

Comments by

Marc Otte, Senior Associate Fellow, EGMONT – Royal Institute for International Relations

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break ☕

Working Session 1: Is Europe Exporting Instability to the Southern Mediterranean?

The unstable political and security situation in the Southern Mediterranean is very often said to be triggered or worsened by external factors and actors. The session will explore whether and to what extent the EU and its Member States contribute to aggravate the developments in the region.

Chair

Mohamed Masbah, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

Paper Presenters

- Addressing Violent Extremism in the Euro Mediterranean Region: Towards a Truly Euro Mediterranean Approach
Moussa Bourekba, Researcher, CIDOB – Barcelona Centre for International Affairs
- The Impact of Externalization, Securitization and Migrant Deals: Can EU Still be Able to Spread Norms and Values?
By Cigdem Ustun, Associate Professor, CES – METU – Center for European Studies – Middle East Technical University
- The Impact of External Players on Tunisia's Security Sector: How German Security Involvement Puts Tunisia's Democratisation at Risk. By Jana Treffler, Intern, FES – Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (on behalf of Anna Stahl, Project Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Tunisia)

Discussants

Roderick Parkes, Senior Analyst, EUISS – European Union Institute for Security Studies

Debate with participants

Working Session 2: Is Europe a Priority for Southern Mediterranean Partners?

Middle East and North Africa countries are developing and strengthening their partnerships with major international powers. The session will explore where the EU stands in this new correlation and analyse how the regional governments deal with European matters, what are the priorities for cooperation with the EU and its Member States.

Chair

Hassan Abouyoub, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco in Italy

Paper Presenters

- The Role of Democracy in the Revival of Euro-Mediterranean Relations. By Amr El Shobaki, Senior Researcher, ACPSS – Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies
- The New-Old Elites and Their Responsiveness to EU Policies – The Cases of Egypt and Tunisia. By Cengiz Gunay, Vice Director, OIIP – Austrian Institute for International Affairs & Sherin Gharib, Affiliated Researcher – Austrian Institute for International Affairs
- Power Transition, Rational Choice and Role Conflict: Explaining the Trajectories of the Maghreb countries' EU Policies since 2011. By Irene Fernandez-Molina, Lecturer in International Relations, University of Exeter

Discussants

Rabha Allam, Senior Researcher, ACPSS – Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies

Ahmed Driss

Debate with participants

Working Session 3: Revitalizing Euro-Mediterranean Relations

With growing number of common threats and challenges, the importance of strengthening Euro-Mediterranean relations and cooperation is even more critical. The session will take stock of various initiatives and frameworks for Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, with a particular focus on the Union for the Mediterranean, and issue proposals on how to overcome obstacles and spoilers in Euro-Mediterranean relations.

Chair

Munevver Cebeci, Associate Professor, European Union Institute, Marmara University, Istanbul; Visiting Prof

College of Europe-Natolin

Paper Presenters

- One Size Fits All? Towards Dilution of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and Neighbourhood Policy into a Wide Europe-Africa Cooperation Framework? By Larabi Jaidi, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center & Ivan Martin, Professor, Universidad Pompeu Fabra
- A Tale of Two Agreements: EU Migration Cooperation With Morocco and Tunisia. By Tasnim Abderrahim, Policy Officer, ECMPD – The European Centre for Development Policy Management
- The Paris Summit, Ten Years On; Towards a Ufemisation of Euro-Mediterranean Relations? By Miguel Med Professor, CEI International Affairs

Discussants

Nadine Abdalla, Research Associate, AFA- Arab Forum for Alternatives

Elisabeth Johansson-Nogues, Associate Professor at the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals; CIS at the London School of Economics

Giancarlo Sestini, Board Member, Diplomatia

Debate with participants

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.30

Kick-off meetings of the new set of EuroMeSCo research groups

Working Package: The Role of Russia in the Middle East and North Africa. Strategy or Opportunity?

Chair

Valeria Talbot, Senior Research Fellow and Co-Head of ISPI's Middle East and North Africa Centre, ISPI – I
Institute for International Political Studies

Main authors

Youssef Cherif, Deputy Director, Columbia Global Centers Tunis

Mira Milosevich, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute

Ziad Akl, Senior Researcher, ACPSS – Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies

Christopher Hartwell, Fellow, CASE – Center for Social and Economic Research

Comments by

Marc Franco, Senior Associate Fellow, EGMONT – Royal Institute for International Relations

Debate with participants

Chair

Abdelhak Bassou, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Main authors

Bouchra Rahmouni Benhida, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Amira Halim, Expert in the African program, ACPSS – Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies

Niklas Bremberg, Research Fellow, UI – Swedish Institute of International Affairs

Patricia Lisa, Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute

Comments by

Xira Ruiz-Campillo, Professor, UNISCI – Research Unit on Security and Cooperation, Complutense University of Madrid

Debate with participants

Working Package: Cooperation with Religious Institutions as a European Policy Tool

Chair

Patrycja Sasnal, Head of the Middle East and North Africa Programme, PISM – The Polish Institute of International Affairs

Main authors

Yasemine El Menouar, Associate Fellow, DGAP – German Council on Foreign Relations

Sergio Altuna, Associate Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute

Debate with participants

16.30 – 17.00

Keynote speech by Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
the Kingdom of Morocco*

17.00 – 17.30

Closing Session

Final remarks

Fathallah Sijilmassi, Former Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean

Senen Florensa, Chair of EuroMeSCo General Assembly

Abdelhak Bassou, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

*Participants to be confirmed.



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