

EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2017

Confronting Violent Extremism
in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

1-2 June 2017, Institut d'Estudis Catalans
Carme, 47 · Barcelona

PROGRAM

Thursday 1 June

09.30 – 10.15 Welcome Remarks

Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed); President of the EuroMeSCo Steering Committee

Joandomènec Ros, President, Institute of Catalan Studies (IEC)

Emma Udwin, Deputy Chief of Staff of the EU Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission

Maria Badia, Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the European Union, Government of Catalonia

Milagros Hernando, Ambassador for Mediterranean Affairs and Senior Official for the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain

Felip Roca*, Director of City Diplomacy, Barcelona Town Council

10.15 – 12.00 Opening Plenary Session: Violent Extremism, a Common Threat to the Security of the Euro-Mediterranean Region

Chair

Miguel García-Herraiz, Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean

Speakers

Mohammed Masbah, Junior Research Fellow, Crown Center for Middle East Studies; Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House

El-Haouès Riache, Ambassador-Counsellor to Algeria's Minister of Maghrebi Affairs, the African Union and the League of Arab States

Amr El-Shobaki, Head of Arab European Unit, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS)

Enrique Ayala, Member of the Council of European Affairs, Fundación Alternativas

Debate with participants

12.00 – 12.30

Coffee break

12.30 – 14.00 **Plenary Session: What Responses to the Rise of Violent Extremism in the Euro-Mediterranean Region?**

Chair

Haizam Amirah-Fernández, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute

Speakers

Alexander Ritzmann, Executive Director, European Foundation for Democracy (EFD); Co-Chair of the Communication and Narratives Working Group, Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)

Omar Shaban, Director, Pal-Think for Strategic Studies

Dina Fakoussa, Head of MENA Programme, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)

Mustafa El-Sagezli, General Manager, Libyan Program for Reintegration and Development

Jean-Paul Laborde*, Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), United Nations

Debate with participants

14.00 – 15.00 **Lunch**

15.00 – 17.00 **Parallel Working Sessions**

Working Session 1: The Geopolitics of Violent Extremism

Violent extremism is not only fueled by conflicts and geopolitical circumstances. In turn, it also contributes to shape new geopolitical dynamics. The session will explore different dimensions of this complex relationship.

Chair

Liess Boukra, Director, Institut national d'études de stratégie globale (INESG)

Paper Presenters

- The Geopolitics of Violent Extremism: The Case of Sinai

Giuseppe Dentice, Assistant Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

- The Geopolitics of the Rise and Fall of ISIS in Libya

Mattia Toaldo, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)

Discussants

Mehdi Taje, Director of the Public Policy, Strategic and Prospective Studies Department, Tunisian Institute of Strategic Studies (ITES)

Ofir Winter, Research Fellow, The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

Debate with participants

Working Session 2: Preventing, Countering and Deradicalising

The session will address policies or initiatives, including bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms, deployed in order to prevent and counter violent extremism as well as to deradicalise or rehabilitate violent extremists in different countries of the region.

Chair **Abdelhak Bassou**, Senior Fellow, OCP Policy Center

Paper Presenters

- Countering Violent Extremism in Lebanon: Experience from a Danish-Lebanese Partnership
Manni Crone, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)
- Turkish Speaking DAESH Supporters on Twitter
Khadije Nasser, Regional Project Manager, Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- Turkish Speaking DAESH Supporters on Twitter
Bedi Çelik, Visiting Researcher, Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM)

Discussants **Amanda Paul**, Senior Policy Analyst, European Policy Center (EPC)
Patrycja Sasnal, Head of Middle East and North Africa Project, Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)

Debate with participants**Working Session 3: Populism, Authoritarianism and Violent Extremism**

Jihadi-driven violent extremism is a major security threat as such. However, it also inter-relates with other phenomena in the Euro-Mediterranean region that threaten its stability. The session will examine the relationship between violent extremism on the one hand and populist, nationalist and islamophobic trends in EU countries and renewed authoritarian trends in the region on the other.

Chair **Haldun Yalçınkaya**, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, TOBB Economics and Technology University

Paper Presenters

- Rethinking the Drivers of Extremism and Radicalism: The Case of Egypt
Eman Ragab, Senior Researcher, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS)
- National Identity and the Migrant Crisis: Violence against "Others" as a Political Tool?
Michal Vít, Research Fellow, EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy

Discussants **Teemu Tammikko**, Senior Research Fellow, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)

Daniela Huber, Senior Fellow, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)

Debate with participants

Friday 2 June

09.30 – 11.00 Parallel Sessions to present the results of the Working Packages

Working Package 4: Transformation in Tunisia: The First Five Years

- Chair** **Wolfgang Mühlberger**, Senior Research Fellow, The Finnish Institute of International Affairs (FIIA)
- Main authors** **Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria**, Head of Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)
Sherin Gharib, Researcher, Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIP)
Isabel Schäfer, Associate Senior Researcher, German Development Institute (DIE)
Stefano Torelli, Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)
- Debate with participants**

Working Package 5: The Future of Syria

- Chair** **Michael Asiedu**, Research and Project Assistant, Global Political Trends Center (GPoT)
- Main authors** **Sena Kekeç**, Project Assistant, Global Political Trends Center (GPoT)
Mensur Akgün, Director, Global Political Trends Center (GPoT)
Sylvia Tiryaki, Deputy Director, Global Political Trends Center (GPoT)
Salam Kawakibi, Deputy Director, Director of Research, Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)
Eduard Soler, Senior Research Fellow, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
Eckart Woertz, Senior Research Fellow, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
- Debate with participants**

Working Package 6: Mapping Migration Challenges in the EU Transit and Destination Countries

- Chair** **Erzsébet N. Rózsa**, External Researcher, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT); Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Economics of Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Main authors** **Marko Lovec**, Research Fellow, CIR, University of Ljubljana
András Hettyey, Researcher, Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (IFAT); Lecturer, National University of Public Service
Gunilla Herolf, Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA)
Christian Druck, Affiliated Expert, Middle East and International Affairs Research Group (MEIA Research)

Annelies Pauwels, Junior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

Debate with participants

11.00 – 11.30 **Coffee break**

11.30 – 13.00 **Parallel kick-off meetings of the new set of Working Packages**

Working Package 7: Sahel and Security in the Mediterranean

Chair **Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck**, El Erian Fellow, Researcher, Carnegie Middle East Center

Main authors **Yahia Zoubir**, Professor, Director of Research in Geopolitics, KEDGE Business School
Raquel Barras Tejudo, Researcher, Research Unit on Security and Cooperation (UNISCI), Complutense University of Madrid
Giovanni Faleg, Associate Researcher, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
Signe Marie Cold-Ravnkilde, Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)

Working Package 8: New Euro-Mediterranean Dynamics in the Eastern Mediterranean

Chair **Nimrod Goren**, Head of Institute, The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies (MITVIM)

Main authors **Thanos Dokos**, Director, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy – ELIAMEP
Gabriel Mitchell, Researcher, The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies (MITVIM)
Muriel Asseburg, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)
Michael Asiedu, Research and Project Assistant, Global Political Trends Center (GPoT)

Working Package 9: Minorities in the Middle East and North Africa

Chair **Salam Kawakibi**, Deputy Director, Director of Research, Arab Reform Initiative (ARI)

Main authors **Paolo Maggolini**, Research Fellow, Catholic University of Milan

Georges Fahmi, Research Fellow, European University Institute (EUI)

Saïd Bennis, Professor, Centre d'études et de recherches en sciences sociales (CERSS)

13.30 – 14.30

Lunch

14.30 – 16.30

Plenary Session: How to Break the Violent Extremism/Populism /Authoritarianism Cycle?

Chair

Bichara Khader, Founder of the Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Monde arabe contemporain – CERMAC ; Chair of the EuroMeSCo General Assembly

Speakers

Rami Mortada, Ambassador of Lebanon to the European Union and Belgium, Senior Official of Lebanon for the Union for the Mediterranean

Rosa Balfour, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund (GMF)

François Burgat, Senior Research Fellow, National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)

Henri J. Barkey, Director of the Middle East Programme, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Debate with participants

16.30 – 17.00

Final Remarks

Senén Florensa, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed); President of the EuroMeSCo Steering Committee

Bichara Khader, Founder of the Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Monde arabe contemporain – CERMAC ; Chair of the EuroMeSCo General Assembly

Notes:

The working languages of the conference and working sessions will be English and French, without translation