



2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Paris, 22-23 November

The Arab
Democratic Wave:
What role for
the global players?



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Since 2007 the EUISS Annual Conference has centred on the topic of the efforts of the EU and its strategic partners to find effective multilateral answers to the most pressing issues of our time. This emphasis on the EU's strategic partnerships and on multilateralism derives from the deep conviction that, in a polycentric world, successful international responses cannot just be driven by an EU-US coalition but must involve a much larger number of actors. The EUISS 2011 Annual Conference aims to provide a high-profile forum for a debate among major global players (the members of the G20) and the international institutions on the most appropriate answers to the transformations that are currently taking place in the Arab world.

The Arab democratic wave that was sparked off by the self-immolation of a young unemployed Tunisian in December 2010 has since been the focus of much international attention and diplomatic engagement on the part of leading powers.

The 2011 EUISS Annual Conference will examine the current state of play as well as the obstacles and constraints to transition and political and economic reform in the wider Mediterranean area. It will do so with a view to exploring in what areas and in what ways the international community can lend its support to the citizens of the Arab countries and will examine the global governance initiatives undertaken so far.

Europe is particularly affected by developments in its close neighbourhood, and has a vested interest in seeing the region enter a new era of democracy, prosperity and peace. The issue, however, is also of major concern to the wider international community. The conference is thus not merely designed to explore new avenues of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, but seeks to bring together the EU's privileged partners to devise a common approach to lending international support to the process of democratic transition in the Arab world, bearing in mind national specificities and addressing the key areas where assistance is sought by Arab societies. The conference will take place in November, almost a year after the wave of uprisings in the Arab world began. This is the right time to make an assessment of the way in which the Arab revolutionary wave has developed, to examine how the policies pursued by the EU and other international actors are playing out, and to propose a change of course where needed.

Participants and speakers, comprising experts as well as officials, media and civil society representatives, will be drawn from UNSC permanent member states and also from other leading or influential powers like Brazil, India, Indonesia, Turkey and South Africa. Representatives of international organisations (the Arab League, UN, World Bank, EIB, the presidency of the G8 and the G20) will also be asked to contribute.

The aim is to engage in a focused dialogue with Arab politicians, experts and civil society activists concentrating on the following areas:

COMMON GOALS, DIFFERENT PATHS: IDENTIFYING AND ADDRESSING NATIONS' NEEDS

The uprisings in the Arab nations, notwithstanding obvious 'domino' effects, are the product of an endogenous process specific to each society. The revolutionary path thus co-exists with the reformist path, although the aspirations to peace, freedom and social justice are common to all. What is the likely evolution of the trends at work in different societies in the Southern Mediterranean and the Gulf? What are the political challenges to the transition processes in the Arab world, including those that have yet to begin? Drawing on the experiences of other countries that have undergone democratic transition can be of value, but what are the specific needs of each country in the current context? What exactly do they expect from the international community? Are there areas of potential international involvement that should be avoided?

DEALING WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE TRANSITIONS IN A TIME OF CRISIS

The financial and the economic crises that have sent shockwaves through the United States and Europe have also affected Southern Mediterranean countries to varying degrees. The adverse impact of this is compounded by the hardships and urgent demands for social reforms inherent to transition processes. Egypt and Tunisia, for example, experienced negative growth in the first months of 2011, and this has led to a sharp increase in unemployment, particularly among young people. What are the main socio-economic challenges, especially in those countries where resources are less abundant, and how can they be met? In Deauville the G8 pledged financial support to countries in democratic transition. Is the international response so far appropriate?

PROTECTING CITIZENS

Citizens' demands have met with widely different responses from the ruling regimes, just as the brutal repression of peaceful demonstrators has elicited uncertain responses among the international community. In the case of Libya, the UN Security Council authorised military intervention under R2P. In all other cases, however, the international community remains hesitant on the best course of action to take that will offer some measure of protection to peaceful protestors and prevent loss of life in a climate of state-sponsored violence. In all cases, the debate on intervention versus sovereignty remains acute. What lessons can be drawn from the NATO-led operation in Libya? What is the best course of action in the other cases? What are the future security needs of these countries?

SETTING PRIORITIES: EU COOPERATION WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS

The EU has acknowledged the need to set cooperation with its neighbours, and in particular with the Arab world, on a new footing. The European Neighbourhood Policy has been reviewed and new instruments are being developed or enhanced to support democratic transitions, as for example the Endowment for Democracy. How adequate are these new instruments? How can the EU cooperate with its strategic partners in their implementation? Are free trade and mobility essential components of an effective policy and if so how can they be promoted? In this perspective, what is the long-term vision of the EU?

Tuesday, 22 November 2011

18:30 Cocktail

19:30 Welcoming remarks

Dinner session:

Chair:

Hassan ABOUYOUB, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the FAO, G77 Chair for 2011

Discussants:

Basma KODMANI, Executive Director, Arab Reform Initiative

Amr ELSHOBAKI, Director, Arab Forum for Alternatives

Mokhtar TRIFI, Président d'honneur de la Ligue tunisienne des droits de l'homme

20:45 Dinner

Dinner address:

Marcus CORNARO, Director, Neighbourhood, DG DEVCO, European Commission

Wednesday, 23 November 2011

09:00 Welcoming coffee

09:30 **PANEL 1 . THE ARAB DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION:
WHAT ROLE FOR EXTERNAL ACTORS**

Chair:

Narcis SERRA I SERRA, President, CIDOB

Introduction:

Claire SPENCER, Head, Middle East and North Africa Programme, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House

Discussants:

Alcides COSTA VAZ, Professor, University of Brasilia

FENG Zhongping, Assistant President & Research Professor, CICIR

Najib GHADBIAN, Associate Professor of Political Science and Middle East Studies, University of Arkansas

Ian LESSER, Executive Director, The German Marshall Fund of the US

Mark LEONARD, Director, European Council on Foreign Relations

11:15 Coffee break

11:30

WORKING GROUPS

WG 1, 2 and 4 held at level -1

WG 3 in the plenary conference room

WG1

**HUMAN SECURITY:
PRESENT CHALLENGES IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN**

Rapporteur:

Luis PERAL, Research Fellow, EUISS

Chair:

Stefano SILVESTRI, President, Istituto Affari Internazionali

Introduction:

Mary MARTIN, Senior Research Fellow, Civil Society and Human Security
Research Unit, London School of Economics

Discussants:

Sergey BATANOV, Member of Council and Director, Pugwash Conferences on
Science and World Affairs

Alain DELETOZ, Vice-President (Europe), International Crisis Group

Anas EL GOMATI, Director, Sadeq Institute, Tripoli

Atila ERALP, Director, Center for European Studies, Faculty of Economic &
Administrative Sciences, Middle East Technical University

Salam KAWAKIBI, Senior Researcher, Arab Reform Initiative

Antonio Jorge RAMALHO, Chief of Staff, National Educational Development Fund
& Institute of International Relations, University of Brasilia

WG2

**THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENSION (ANSWERS AND GOVERNANCE).
THE "HUMAN SIDE-EFFECTS" (MIGRATION, ASYLUM SEEKERS, ETC)**

Working group co-organised with Mr. Marty-Gauquié, Director, European Investment Bank

Rapporteur:

Nicola CASARINI, Research Fellow, EUISS

Chair:

Jean Pascal ZANDERS, Research Fellow, EUISS

Introduction:

Henry MARTY-GAUQUIÉ, Director, European Investment Bank

Discussants:

Denis BAUCHARD, Conseiller pour le Moyen Orient, IFRI

Jean-Pierre CASSARINO, Professor, European University Institute

Magda KANDIL, Executive Director and Director of Research, Egyptian Center
for Economic Studies

Lahcen OULHAJ, Dean, Faculté de Droit et des Sciences économiques et Sociales,
Université Mohammed V-Agdal

Ezzeddine SAIDANE, Owner and Financial Adviser, Directway Consulting

Hoda YOUSSEF, Research Fellow, Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University

WG3 THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS AND THE NEW REGIONAL DYNAMICS

Rapporteurs:

Esra BULUT AYMAT and **Rouzbeh PARSI**, Research Fellows, EUISS

Chair:

Steven ERLANGER, Paris Bureau Chief, *The New York Times*

Introduction:

Daniel LEVY, Co-Director, Middle East Task Force, New America Foundation, Senior Research Fellow, European Council on Foreign Relations, Editor for 'The Middle East Channel'

Discussants:

Akiva ELGAR, Journalist and author, *Ha'aretz Daily*

Yacov HADAS-HANDELSMAN, Israeli Ambassador to the EU, Israeli Mission to the EU

Bernard PHILIPPE, Strategic Planning Division, European External Action Service

Leila SHAHID, Déléguée générale de la Palestine en Belgique, le Luxembourg et auprès de l'Union européenne

Nadim SHEHADI, Associate Fellow, The Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House

Salomé ZOURABICHVILI, Coordinator for the Iran Panel of Experts, United Nations

WG4 A NEW SOUTHERN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY?

Rapporteur:

Sabine FISCHER, Senior Research Fellow, EUISS

Chair:

John ROPER, Chairman of the Select Committee on the European Union, House of Lords

Introduction:

Richard YOUNGS, Director General, FRIDE

Discussants:

Menouar ALEM, Ambassadeur, Chef de la Mission du Royaume du Maroc auprès de l'UE

Merete BILDE, Senior Policy Adviser, European External Action Service

Damien HELLY, Senior Research Fellow, EUISS

Erwan LANNON, Professeur visiteur, Collège d'Europe

Mark LEONARD, Director, European Council on Foreign Relations

Luis MARTINEZ, Directeur de Recherche, CERl Sciences-Po

Marc OTTE, Head of Policy Planning, Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade & Development Cooperation

Mario TELO, Vice-President, Institute for European Studies, ULB

13:00 Lunch

14:00

Keynote Speech:

Ajmi LOURIMI, Member of the Executive Bureau, Ennahdha

Moderator:

George JOFFÉ, Lecturer, Department of Politics & International Studies, Cambridge University

15:00

PANEL 2 . POLITICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION: WHAT PRIORITIES AFTER DEAUVILLE?

Panel co-organised with Joseph Maïla, Directeur, Direction de la Prospective, Ministère français des Affaires étrangères et européennes

Chair:

Joseph MAÏLA, Directeur, Direction de la Prospective, Ministère français des Affaires étrangères et européennes

Discussants:

William BURKE-WHITE, Deputy Dean & Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School

Mohammed CHAFIQI, Directeur de la Prévision, Ministère des Finances du Royaume du Maroc

Marco Aurélio GARCIA, Special Advisor on Foreign Policy to the President of Brazil

Ibrahim KALIN, Advisor to the Turkish Prime Minister

Kenichi SUGANUMA, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and other International Organizations

ZHU Liqun, Vice President, China Foreign Affairs University

17:00

CONCLUDING PANEL

Presentation of the reports of the Working Groups

Concluding remarks: **LOOKING AHEAD**

Speakers:

Álvaro DE VASCONCELOS, Director, EUISS

Radha KUMAR, Director, Peace & Conflict Program, Delhi Policy Group

Olof SKOOG, Ambassador, Permanent Chair of the Political and Security Committee, European External Action Service

With special thanks to the French Ministry of Foreign & European Affairs for their continuing support

