

THE EU'S NEIGHBOURHOOD: HOW TO STABILISE THE RING OF FIRE?

7TH EUROPEAN THINK-TANKS FORUM

Monday 27 February — Tuesday 28 February 2017

The National Museum of Archaeology — Auberge de Provence, Republic Street — Valletta

The increasing instability in the EU's neighbourhood is high in the agenda of European and national authorities and is a key focus of Malta's EU presidency. The collapse of several countries in the Mediterranean region, refugee flows, the development of terrorist networks threatening Europeans with murderous attacks, frozen conflicts in the Eastern neighborhood and the challenging relation with Russia have a profound impact on the entire European Union. No member state can think of itself as being immune to terrorist attacks or unaffected by the massive arrival of refugees; not to mention the negative impact of economic and political collapse in several neighbouring states. There is no longer delimitation between external security and internal security, and Europeans need urgently to engage more actively with their neighbourhood.

The 2015 ENP review, the November 2015 Valetta Summit for migration and the EU Global Strategy have framed the recent informal meeting of EU heads of state and government in Valetta under the Maltese EU Presidency. These events demonstrate that Europeans are more cautious in shaping normative objectives and are more willing to engage in pragmatic initiatives, going from improving the socio-economic situation of local communities to the implementation of measures stemming the flow of irregular migrants in the Mediterranean as the Malta Declaration of February 2017 reads. Strategic thinking must focus on coordinating short term initiatives, finding the adequate partners and level of engagement, with more long term strategy for stabilizing the EU's neighbourhood.

Monday 27 February 2017

2.30 pm > 3 pm – Welcome coffee

3 pm > 3.10 pm – Introduction

- Yves BERTONCINI, Director of the Jacques Delors Institute
- Ian BORG, Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017

3.10 pm > 4 pm – Keynote speeches

- Enrico LETTA, President of the Jacques Delors Institute
- Joseph MUSCAT, Prime Minister of Malta

Discussion with the participants

4 pm > 6.30 pm – First session – Rule of law, institutional consolidation and security sector reform as preconditions for stabilisation (Chatham House rule)

What support can Europeans bring in terms of good governance practices and the development of security and defence capabilities? How can they pave the way for Human rights promotion? What kind of cooperation is needed between the EU and other major powers in the EU's neighbourhood?

- Giovanni GREVI, Senior Fellow, European Policy Centre
- James MORAN, Ambassador, MENA Principal Advisor, European External Action Service
- Judith VORRATH, Research Fellow, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
- Richard YOUNGS, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe

Moderator: Claire SPENCER, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House

8 pm Dinner

Speech by Lakhdar BRAHIMI, former UN Special Envoy to Syria and former Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs

Tuesday 28 February 2017

9 am > 9.30 am – Welcome coffee

9.30 am > 12 am – Second session – Investing in the EU's neighbourhood: Incentives for economic cooperation (Chatham House rule)

How can youth employment and local entrepreneurship be sustained to promote economic growth? Are we realising the full potential of DCFTAs? How can Europeans contribute to increasing the attractiveness of the neighbourhood for foreign investors?

- Jean-Louis GUIGOU, President, Ipemed
- Peter HAVLIK, Senior Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)
- Michael KÖHLER, Director Neighbourhood South, DG NEAR, European Commission
- Guillaume Van der LOO, Researcher, Centre for European Policy Studies

Moderator: Jean-Pierre CHAUFFOUR, Lead Country Economist for Morocco and MENA Regional Trade Coordinator, The World Bank

2 pm > 4.30 pm – Third session – Addressing the migration challenges and prospect for a mobility partnership (Chatham House rule)

The current migratory "crisis" has reinforced the trend to address the external dimension of the migration phenomenon through a security angle. However, cooperation with third countries cannot be limited to this sole topic and should embed legal migration issues in the framework of so-called "mobility partnerships". What should such partnerships comprise as policy initiatives to contribute addressing the migration challenges? Can new mobility initiatives like the creation of a jobseekers' visa be the new landmark for cooperation?

- Carmen GONZALEZ ENRIQUEZ, Senior Analyst, Real Instituto Elcano
- Rainer MUNZ, Adviser on Migration and Demography, European Political Strategy Centre
- Roderick PACE, Professor, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta
- Anna TERRÓN CUSÍ, President of Instrategies and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Institute on Globalisation, Culture and Mobility, United Nations University

Moderator: Yves PASCOUAT, Associate Research Fellow, Jacques Delors Institute

4.30 pm > 4.45 pm – Conclusions

- Louis GRECH, Deputy Prime Minister of Malta
- Radosław SIKORSKI, Former Polish Foreign Affairs Minister and Senior Fellow, Center for European Studies, Harvard



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