

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

7TH EUROPEAN THINK-TANKS FORUM

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday 27 February – Tuesday 28 February 2016 –

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 will be a key focus of Malta's EU presidency which will start in January 2017. 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 ENP review and the Valetta Summit of November 2015, and the EU's Global Strategy of June 2016 demonstrate that Europeans are more cautious in shaping normative objectives and willing to engage in pragmatic initiatives. Strategic thinking must focus at coordinating short term initiatives, finding the adequate partners and level of engagement, with more long term strategy for a stabilisation of the EU's neighbourhood.

Monday 27 February

2.30 > 3 pm – Welcome coffee

3.00 > 3.10 – Introduction

- **Yves BERTONCINI**, Director of the JDI
- **Ian BORG**, Parliamentary Secretary for the EU Presidency 2017

3.10 > 4pm – Keynote speeches

- **Enrico LETTA**, President of the JDI
- **Joseph MUSCAT**, Prime Minister of Malta

Discussion with the participants

4pm > 6.30pm – First session –

Rule of law, institutional consolidation and security sector reform as preconditions for stabilisation

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?

- **Thomas GOMART**, Director, IFRI (tbc)
- **Giovanni GREVI**, Senior Fellow, EPC
- **Judith VORRATH**, Research Fellow, SWP
- **Richard YOUNGS**, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Europe

Moderator: **Elvire FABRY**, Senior Research Fellow, JDI

7 pm – Diner

Tuesday 28 February 2016

9 am > 9.30 am – Welcome coffee

**9.30 am > 12 am – Second session –
Investing in the EU's neighbourhood: Incentives for
economic cooperation**

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?

- **Anna Maria FERRAGINA**, Visiting Professor, College of Europe
- **Peter HAVLIK**, Senior Economist, The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw) (tbc)
- **Michael KOHLER**, Director Neighbourhood South, DG NEAR, European Commission
- **Guillaume Van der LOO**, Researcher, CEPS

Moderator: **Daniela SCHWARZER**, Director, DGAP (tbc)

2 pm > 4.30 pm – Third session – Addressing the migration challenges and prospect for a mobility partnership

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?

- **Elizabeth COLLETT**, Director, Migration Policy Institute (tbc)
- **Carmen GONZALEZ ENRIQUEZ**, Senior Analyst, Real Instituto Elcano
- **Rainer MUNZ**, Adviser on Migration and Demography, EPSC
- **Roderick PACE**, Professor, Institute for European Studies, University of Malta

Moderator: **Yves PASCOUAU**, Associate Research Fellow, JDI

4.30 pm > 4.45 pm – Conclusions

- **Quentin DICKINSON**, Director of European Affairs at Radio France (tbc)



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