

## **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

**EI-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)

**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 (OIIIP)  
**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**

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**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 Tejado**, 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





## PARTICIPANTS BIOS

**MENSUR AKGÜN**

Director. Global Political Trends Center – GPoT

Mensur Akgün is the director of the Global Political Trends (GPoT) Center and chair of the International Relations Department at Istanbul Kültür University. In addition to overseeing several second-track diplomacy initiatives with Cyprus, Israel and Armenia, he is an expert and frequent commentator on Turkish foreign policy, international relations, conflict resolution and regional security. Besides his work at GPoT, Prof. Akgün served as the director of the Foreign Policy Programme at the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) from 2002 to 2009. Previously a columnist at the daily newspapers “Referans” and “Star”, Prof. Akgün currently writes for “Karar”. Prof. Akgün holds bachelor's degrees in International Relations and Social Anthropology. He earned his master's in Political Science from the University of Oslo and later completed his doctoral studies at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul.

**HAIZAM AMIRAH-FERNÁNDEZ**

Senior Analyst. Elcano Royal Institute

Haizam Amirah-Fernández is Senior Analyst for the Mediterranean and Arab World at the Elcano Royal Institute in Madrid and Associate Professor of International Relations at IE Business School. His research areas are international relations, political Islam, and transitions to democracy in the Arab world. He has lectured at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Georgetown University, Saint Louis University, Universidad San Pablo-CEU, and the Universitat de Barcelona. He has also worked for the United Nations in New York and for Human Rights Watch in Washington DC. Professor Amirah-Fernández is a frequent commentator in the Spanish and international media. He obtained a BA from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and an MA in Arab Studies on a Fulbright scholarship from Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. He completed his studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

**MICHAEL ASIEDU**

Research and Project Assistant. Global Political Trends Center – GPoT

Michael Asiedu is a research and project assistant at the Global Political Trends (GPoT) Center. He contributes to GPoT's research activities, which focus on Turkish Foreign Policy and broader Middle East and North Africa region. His research focuses on Turkish-African relations, transitional justice and post-conflict reconstruction. He has written policy papers, academic articles and essays on platforms, such as on E-International Relations. Michael Asiedu holds a LL.M degree in International Human Rights Law from the University of Liverpool.



### MURIEL ASSEBURG

Senior Fellow. German Institute for International and Security Affairs – SWP

Dr. Muriel Asseburg is a senior fellow in the Middle East and Africa division of the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin. Her current research is focused on conflict dynamics and peace-making in the Levant, with a special focus on Syria and Israel/Palestine, German, European and US Middle East policies, as well as questions of state building, political reform and security in the Eastern Mediterranean. She earned her PhD in Political Science from Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany. Recent publications include: “The End of a Two-State Settlement? Alternatives and Priorities for Settling the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict” (co-authored with Jan Busse), “Dynamics of Transformation, Elite Change and New Social Mobilization in the Arab World” (co-edited with Heiko Wimmen) and “The Arab Spring and the European Response”.



### JOSÉ-ENRIQUE DE AYALA

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

Mr. de Ayala is Brigadier General of the Army, retired. He holds diplomas from the Spanish Army General Staff and Joint Staff Colleges. He has served as military attaché to the Spanish Embassy in Germany, as Deputy Chief of the Multinational Division Center-south in Iraq, and as Chief of Staff of the Eurocorps. He also holds a degree in International Relations from the Centre for International Studies. An international policy analyst specialized in the European Union, he collaborates with numerous media both written and audiovisual, and has published a lot of articles and working papers on geopolitics, and foreign and security policy, including several on the effects of terrorism and how to deal with them. He is a member of the European Affairs Advisory Committee and the Defence Advisory Committee of Fundación Alternativas.



### MARIA BADIA

Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the European Union. Government of Catalonia

Maria Badia is currently the Secretary of Foreign and European Union Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institutional Relations and Transparency, Government of Catalonia. She is also a member of the Advisory Council of the European cultural network “A Soul for Europe” and is a member of the Moviment d'Esquerres – MES (the Movement of the Left) political party. From 2004 to 2014 she served as a Member of the European Parliament where she focused on culture, language, information and communication technologies, as well as international trade issues. She holds a bachelor's degree in English Philology from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).



### ROSA BALFOUR

Senior Fellow. German Marshall Fund – GMF

Rosa Balfour is a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund (GMF). Prior to joining the GMF, Rosa Balfour headed the Europe in the World Programme at the European Policy Centre. Her latest major publication is “Europe’s Troublemakers. The Populist Challenge to Foreign Policy”. She has also written “The European External Action Service and National Foreign Ministries. Convergence or Divergence?” (co-edited with Caterina Carta and Kristi Raik) and “Human Rights and Democracy in EU Foreign Policy. The cases of Ukraine and Egypt”. She holds a master’s in History from Cambridge University as well as another master’s in European Studies and a PhD in International Relations, both from the London School of Economics and Political Science.



### HENRI J. BARKEY

Director of the Middle East Programme. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Henri J. Barkey is currently the director of the Middle East Programme at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where he has also served as public policy scholar on the project “The Iraq War and Beyond: The Re-Making of Iraq’s Neighborhood”. In addition, he is the Bernard L. and Bertha F. Cohen Professor at Lehigh University. From 1998 to 2000, Dr. Barkey served as a member of the US State Department Policy Planning Staff working primarily on issues related to the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean and intelligence. His recent publications include “Turkey’s Syria Predicament” and “Iraq, Its Neighbors and the United States” (co-edited with Phebe Marr and Scott Lasensky). He earned his PhD in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania.



### RAQUEL BARRAS TEJUDO

Researcher. Complutense University of Madrid

Raquel Barras Tejudo is a researcher within the Research Unit on Security and Cooperation (UNISCI) at the Complutense University of Madrid. She holds master’s degrees in Leadership from Georgetown University and in Human Rights and Democratisation from the European Inter-University Center, as well as a doctorate in International Relations and Security.



### ABDELHAK BASSOU

Senior Fellow. OCP Policy Center

Abdelhak Bassou is a senior non-resident fellow at OCP Policy Center. After a career in the Directorate General of National Security, Abdelhak Bassou became the director of the Royal Institute of Police. He later served as chief of Regional Security before taking over as head of Central General Intelligence of Morocco. He also contributed to the output of international organisations, including the of Arab Interior Ministers' Council, where he represented the Directorate General of National Security in several meetings. Abdelhak Bassou is an expert in security studies and defense. He holds a master's in Political Science and International Studies from the Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences of Agdal in Rabat.



### SAÏD BENNIS

Professor. Centre de recherches et d'études en sciences sociales – CERSS

Saïd Bennis is a professor and researcher at the Research and Study Centre on Social Sciences (CERSS) of the Mohamed V University in Rabat. He has lectured at different academic institutions, both in Morocco and abroad, and served as an expert for social cohesion in the Arab world for the UNDP. Among Dr. Bennis' published works are the book "Territoire, région et langues au Maroc", a contribution to "Arabic Varieties: Far and Wide" and the articles "The Amazigh Question and National Identity in Morocco", "Discours islamiste, pluralité linguistique et diversité culturelle au Maroc" and "Territorialisation linguistique et culturelle au Maroc". He holds a doctorate in Development Studies from the Mohamed V University in Rabat.



### LIESS BOUKRA

Director. Institut national d'études de stratégie globale – INESG

Liess Boukra is the director of the Institut national d'études de stratégie globale (INESG). He previously held the position of associate director at the African Centre for the Study & Research on Terrorism (CAERT). He is an expert in the areas of sociology, political Islam, terrorism and jihadism and has authored several books about these issues, including "Algérie : la terreur sacrée", "Le terrorisme : définition, histoire, idéologie et passage à l'acte" and "Le djihadisme : L'islam à l'épreuve de l'histoire". He received his master's from the American University at Washington, D.C. He holds a doctorate in Social Sciences from the Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.



### FRANÇOIS BURGAT

Senior Research Fellow. National Centre for Scientific Research – CNRS

François Burgat is a senior researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), posted at IREMAM (Institut de recherches et d'études sur le monde arabe et musulman) in Aix-en-Provence, France. He leads the project "When Authoritarianism Fails in the Arab World", funded by the European Research Council.

Dr. Burgat has conducted extensive fieldwork in the Middle East and North Africa and lectured at numerous academic institutions as well as the World Economic Forum, NATO and major think tanks. Among his publications are "The Islamic Movement in North Africa", "Face to Face with Political Islam", "Islamism in the shadow of Al-Qaeda" and, most recently, "Comprendre l'islam politique: une trajectoire de recherche sur l'altérité islamiste, 1973-2016". François Burgat received his doctorate in Public Policy from the University of Grenoble.



### BEDI ÇELİK

Visiting Researcher. Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies – ORSAM

Bedi Çelik is a visiting researcher with the Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies (ORSAM), where he works as a social network analyst. Previously, he has served in the Turkish Armed Forces as a battery officer, battery commander and battalion commander in various posts for 20 years. His functions also included that of operation centre chief officer in the multinational battalion of EUFOR Althea in Bosnia-Herzegovina, instructor in the Turkish Military Academy and project officer at the headquarters of Turkish General Staff. Bedi Çelik published a book entitled "System Dynamics" and edited several books on military leadership. He graduated from the Turkish Military Academy as an artillery officer and later completed his post-graduate studies in Financial Management at Yeditepe University.



### EMMANUEL COHEN-HADRIA

Head of the Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department. European Institute of the Mediterranean – IEMed

Before joining the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) in 2015, Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria worked eight years for the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS). Between 2012 and 2015, he worked in the office of the then Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs of the EEAS, Helga Schmid, where he was in charge of Mediterranean issues. He was posted in the Western Balkans from 2006 to 2011. Emmanuel Cohen-Hadria teaches courses on the European Union at two universities of Barcelona. His main fields of expertise are EU-Mediterranean relations, Tunisia and EU foreign policy. He graduated from Sciences Po Paris and holds a master's from the College of Europe/Bruges.



### SIGNE MARIE COLD-RAVNKILDE

Researcher. Danish Institute for International Studies – DIIS

Signe Marie Cold-Ravnkilde is a researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). Her principle areas of research are security and development in Africa, with particular focus on peace and state building processes in the Sahel (Mali, Niger and Nigeria), as well as West African militant groups. More recently, she has been working on global gender norms in South Africa's security and development cooperation. Among Dr. Cold-Ravnkilde's publications are the journal articles "Friction and Inequality among Peacekeepers in Mali" (co-authored by Peter Albrecht and Rikke Haugegaard, forthcoming), "Recasting the 'New Actors in Development' Research Agenda" (co-authored by Adam Moe Fejerskov and Erik Lundsgaarde) and a contribution to the book "Water Governance Challenges in Africa: Hydro-Optimism or Hydro-Pessimism?". She holds a PhD in International Development Studies from Roskilde University, Denmark.



### MANNI CRONE

Senior Researcher. Danish Institute for International Studies – DIIS

Manni Crone is a senior researcher in the area of international security with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). She has also worked as a translator of Danish and French. Her research focuses on terrorism in Europe, radicalisation, French foreign and domestic policies, videos and images in international security as well as political philosophy. Dr. Crone has published many articles on these issues, including "Religion and Violence: Governing Muslim Militancy through Aesthetic Assemblages", which appeared in the "Millennium – Journal of International Studies", and contributed to several books, including "Introduction to Political Sociology" or "Sharia as Discourse". She holds a master's in Political Science from Sciences Po Paris and a PhD in Sociology from the University of Copenhagen.



### GIUSEPPE DENTICE

Assistant Research Fellow. Italian Institute for International Political Studies – ISPI

Giuseppe Dentice is a PhD student in Institutions and Politics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan and an assistant research fellow at the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI). His research interests cover geopolitical and security issues in the MENA region, with a focus on Egypt, Israel and Gulf monarchies, as well as international relations in the Middle East more generally. He has contributed to several reports for the Italian Parliament and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Giuseppe Dentice has appeared on Italian and international information networks (such as "RFI", "Financial Times", "RAI", "Radio Vaticana" or "Il Fatto Quotidiano") and published in different Italian and international reviews. In addition, he has been editing the annual editions of "Atlante Geopolitico" since 2013. He is a consultant for the Italian Parliament.



### THANOS DOKOS

Director. Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy – ELIAMEP

Thanos Dokos is the director of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP). Previously, he worked for the Hellenic Ministries of National Defence and Foreign Affairs. He has also held research posts at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and at the Center for Science and International Affairs (CSIA) at Harvard University. His research interests include global trends, international security, Greek-Turkish relations and Mediterranean security. Among Dr. Dokos' published articles are "The Eastern Mediterranean and the Gulf region in 2020", "Greek Foreign Policy under the Damocles Sword of the Economic Crisis" and "Greek Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East". He received his PhD in International Relations from Cambridge University.



### CHRISTIAN DRUCK

Affiliated Expert. Middle East and International Affairs Research Group – MEIA Research

Christian Druck is a member of the European-North African Young Leaders Network of the Center for Applied Policy Research (CAP). He focuses on immigration and asylum law, specialising in labour market and education issues. His expertise covers predominantly migration issues concerning Germany and other EU member states. Regarding his research interests, Christian Druck focuses on political and societal developments in the MENA region. Since 2016, he has been working for the Bavarian Network Countering Religious Extremism in terms of preventing extremism. From 2010 to 2016, he worked for the Bavarian Government on immigration, asylum, and integration matters. In this position, he headed the executive board of the Bavarian Integration Council. Christian Druck studied Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and at Damascus University.



### GEORGES FAHMI

Research Fellow. European University Institute – EUI

Georges Fahmi is a research fellow at the Middle East Directions Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (EUI), and an associate fellow at the Middle East and North Africa Programme of Chatham House. He previously worked as a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut. Dr. Fahmi's research focuses on religious actors in democratic transition in the Middle East, the interplay between state and religion in Egypt and Tunisia, and religious minorities and citizenship in Egypt and Syria. He received his PhD in Social and Political Sciences from the European University Institute.



#### DINA FAKOUSSA

Head of the Middle East and North Africa Programme. German Council on Foreign Relations – DGAP

Dina Fakoussa took up the post as head of the EU-Middle East Forum at the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in March 2011 and became head of the Middle East and North Africa programme in 2014. She has been working for many years in leading positions in international cooperation and policy advice targeting the Arab region. She worked intensively on the issues of democratisation, human rights, and conflict resolution with a particular focus on Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. Dina Fakoussa's last position abroad was at the German Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung in Lebanon, where she worked for two years as programme manager. Dina Fakoussa is Egyptian-German. She obtained her bachelor's in Political Science with a minor in Economics from the American University in Cairo and her master's in International Relations from the Free University of Berlin.



#### GIOVANNI FALEG

Associate Researcher. Centre for European Policy Studies – CEPS

Giovanni Faleg is an associate researcher in security and defence at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) Europe in the World Unit and a consultant at the World Bank in the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group. His areas of expertise include European integration, European security (CSDP-NATO), the EU's foreign policy towards the Southern neighbourhood, development assistance, the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in MENA/Africa, transatlantic relations as well as Italy's foreign and security policies. Dr. Faleg is author of the book "The EU's Common Security and Defence Policy: Learning Communities in International Organisations" and acted as co-rapporteur of the Task Force "More Union on European Defence", chaired by Javier Solana. He holds a PhD in European Studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science (2014).



#### SENÉN FLORENSA

Executive President. European Institute of the Mediterranean – IEMed; President of the EuroMeSCo Steering Committee

Senén Florensa is Executive President of the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) since 2013. Previously, he was Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Catalonia (2011-2012). From 2006 to 2011, he was Director General of the IEMed. During his diplomatic career, he notably served as Spanish Secretary of the Spanish-Moroccan Averroes Committee (1996-2000), as General Director of the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World, the Mediterranean and Developing Countries (ICMAMPD)



of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (1996-2000) and as Spanish Ambassador to Tunisia (2000-2004). Ambassador Florensa holds a degree in Economic Science and in Law from the University of Barcelona and studied for his doctorate in Economics at the University of Paris I (Panthéon-Sorbonne), at New York University and at the Complutense University of Madrid, where he presented his doctoral thesis. Senén Florensa also holds a diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School of the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.



#### MIGUEL GARCIA-HERRAIZ

Deputy Secretary General. Union for the Mediterranean – UfM

Miguel García-Herraiz is the Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in charge of Water and Environment since August 2016. García-Herraiz is a Spanish career diplomat, who has served the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the past twenty years, holding positions as Deputy Director General for International Affairs of Terrorism and Disarmament, and, lately, as Counsellor in charge of the relations between the European Union and Southern Mediterranean countries in the Permanent Mission of Spain to the European Union. He has also been First Secretary and Head of Consular section, in charge of the Spanish Cultural Centre in Nicaragua at the Embassy of Spain in Managua, Head of section for International Affairs of Terrorism and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Spain in Bucharest. Mr García-Herraiz has a wide experience in negotiations and has been involved in the drafting of all recent UfM Ministerial declarations as well the revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy prior to his appointment as Deputy Secretary General of the UfM.



#### DR. DALIA GHANEM-YAZBECK

El Erian Fellow, Researcher. Carnegie Middle East Center

Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck is an expert on political violence, Islamism, and the radicalisation process, with a focus on Jihadism. She focuses as well on Algeria. Dr. Ghanem-Yazbeck was a research assistant at the Center for Political Analysis and Regulation at the University of Versailles (France), and she also served as a teaching associate at Williams College (United States) prior to joining Carnegie. She has published on political and extremist violence, including on Islamism in Algeria, the Islamic State organisation and the participation of women in jihadi groups. She has been a regular commentator on such issues in different Arab and international print and audio-visual media. She holds a PhD from the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-En-Yvelines, France, and two masters in Political Science, among them one obtained from the University of La Sorbonne (Paris I. France).



### SHERIN GHARIB

Researcher. Austrian Institute for International Affairs – OIIP

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