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## **CAPITALIZING ON EURO-SYRIAN RELATIONS: FROM TENSIONS TO COOPERATION**

A Quarterly **EuroMeSCo Seminar** organised by the Italian Institute of International Affairs-IAI, Rome, and the Orient Centre for International Studies-OCIS, Damascus

*Damascus 15-17 May 2008*

### **PROGRAMME**

**Thursday, May 15, 2008** – arrival of participants

**Friday, May 16, 2008** – seminar:

- Europe and the Mediterranean: a European presentation of the Mediterranean as seen by the EU and the European countries and EU policies towards this area (the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the European neighbourhood Policy) by **Roberto ALIBONI**
- Syria, the European Union and the Mediterranean: a Syrian presentation by **Marwan QABALANA**
- Regional challenges and their impact on EU-Syrian relations: two presentations, one from the European side by **Muriel ASSEBURG** and one from the Syrian side by **Samir ALTAQI**. Presentations would analyse and evaluate the current regional environment and its impact and challenges for the future of EU-Syrian relations; questions about competition and complementarity between EU and US
- Globalization and culture: two presentations, one from the European side by **Ioannis GRIGORIADIS** and one from the Syrian side by **Samer LADKANY**; a discussion about religion and secularism in Europe and Syria-Arab countries, moderate Islam and globalization, educational systems, cultural relations between Europe/Western countries and the Middle East.
- Conclusions and perspectives – the way ahead, in the shape of a round table.

**Saturday, May 17, 2008** – departure of participants

LANGUAGE OF THE SEMINAR: ENGLISH